BAKEMONOGATARI
2
OH!GREAT
Original Story:
NISIOISIN
Original Character Design: VOFAN

WAY
mai

BAKEMONOGATARI

OH!GREAT

Original Story:
NISIOISIN

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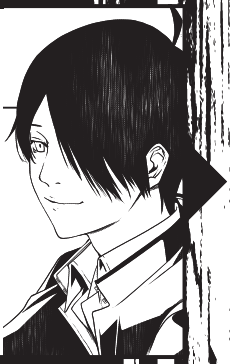
2

MAIN CHARACTERS

Hitagi Senjogahara

A girl whose weight was stolen by the omoshi-kani. Kept a low profile to hide her secret, but Koyomi found it out anyway.



Koyomi Araragi

A boy who was attacked by a vampire. Stumbles upon the secret of Hitagi's body, taking action so "she can be saved."

Mèmè Oshino

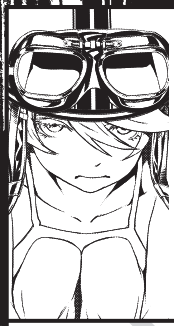
An expert on aberrations. A disheveled older man who saved Koyomi. Was then introduced to Hitagi.

Tsubasa Hanekawa

A girl in the same class as Koyomi. A legendary class president who scored 598 points across six courses in five subjects. Went to the same middle school as Hitagi.

The omoshi-kani

An "aberration" that steals people's weight. It took Hitagi's weight... and her mental burden as well.



Shinobu Oshino

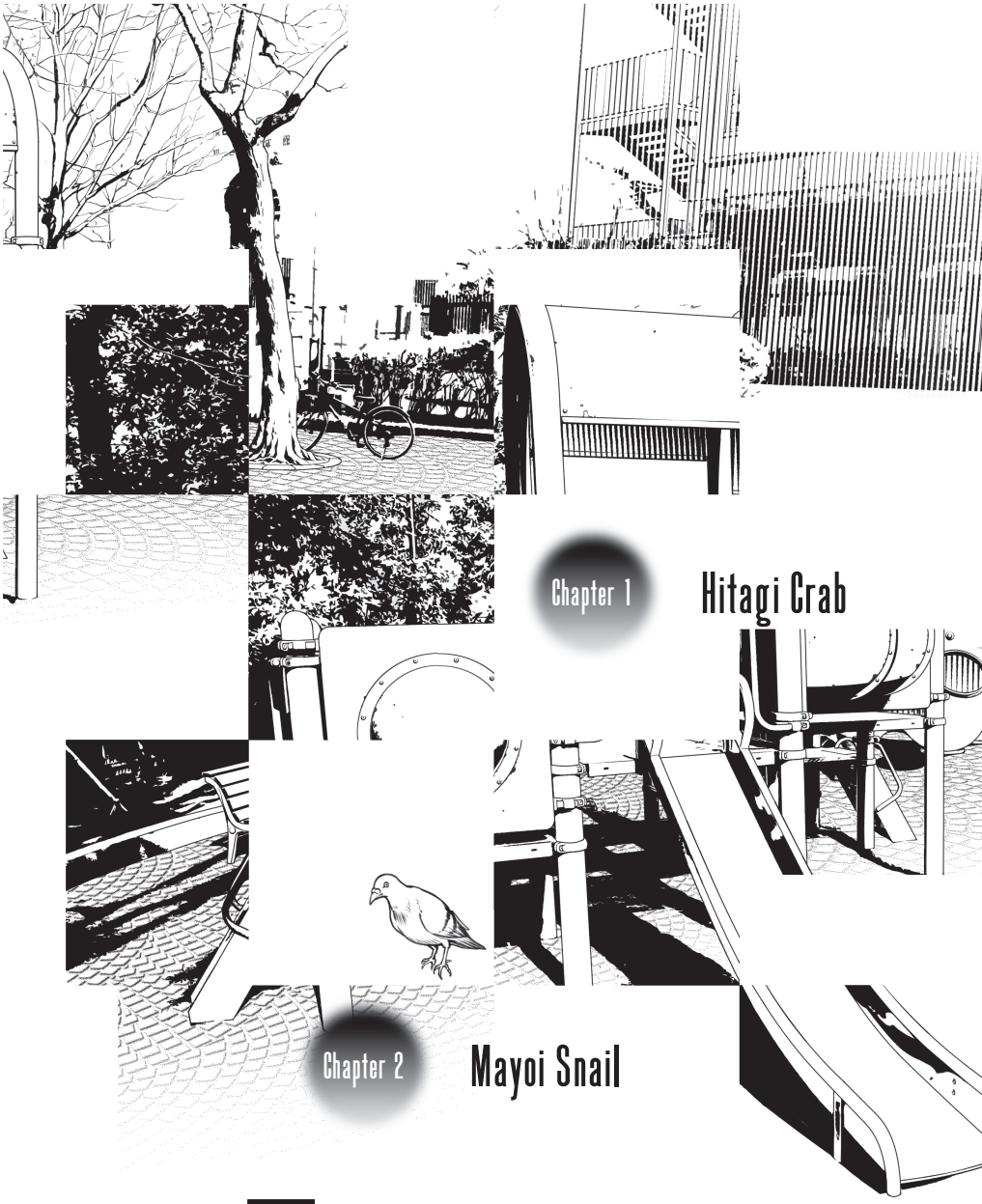
The shadow of a once-great vampire. Named by Mèmè. Does nothing but sit there.

Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade

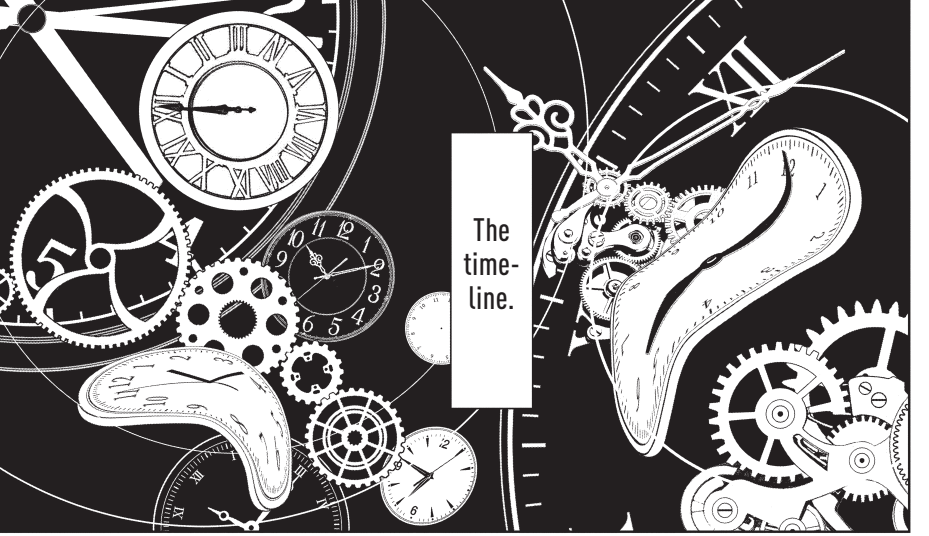
The iron-blooded, hot-blooded, yet cold-blooded vampire who attacked Koyomi.

THE STORY SO FAR

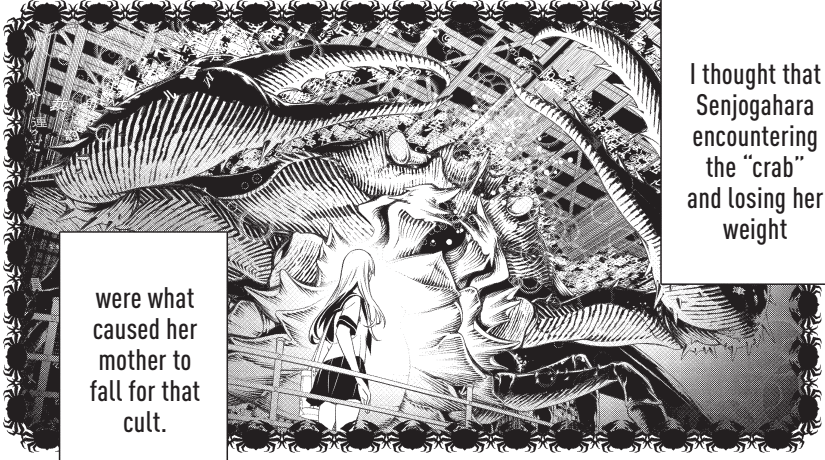
One day, Koyomi Araragi catches a falling Hitagi Senjogahara to discover that she is practically weightless. As it turns out, Hitagi had encountered a crab who had stolen her weight in its entirety. Koyomi then calls upon Mèmè Oshino—an aberrations expert—to rescue Hitagi. But in the process, Koyomi learns the truth: Hitagi had offered the crab her weight to set herself free from an overpowering emotional burden involving her mother.

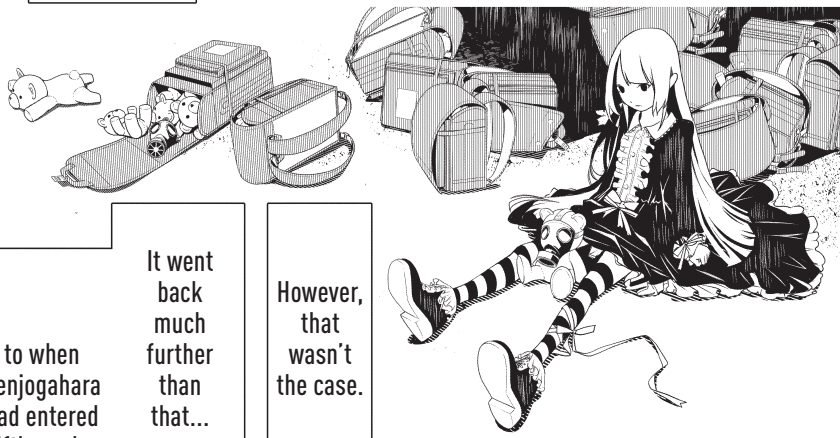


BOOK DESIGN VEIA


The time-line.

It seems
I've misunder-stood
how the timeline worked.

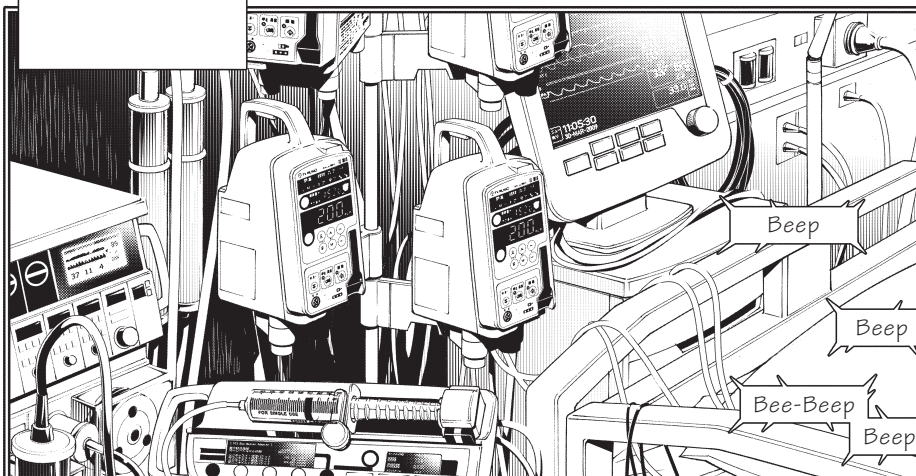


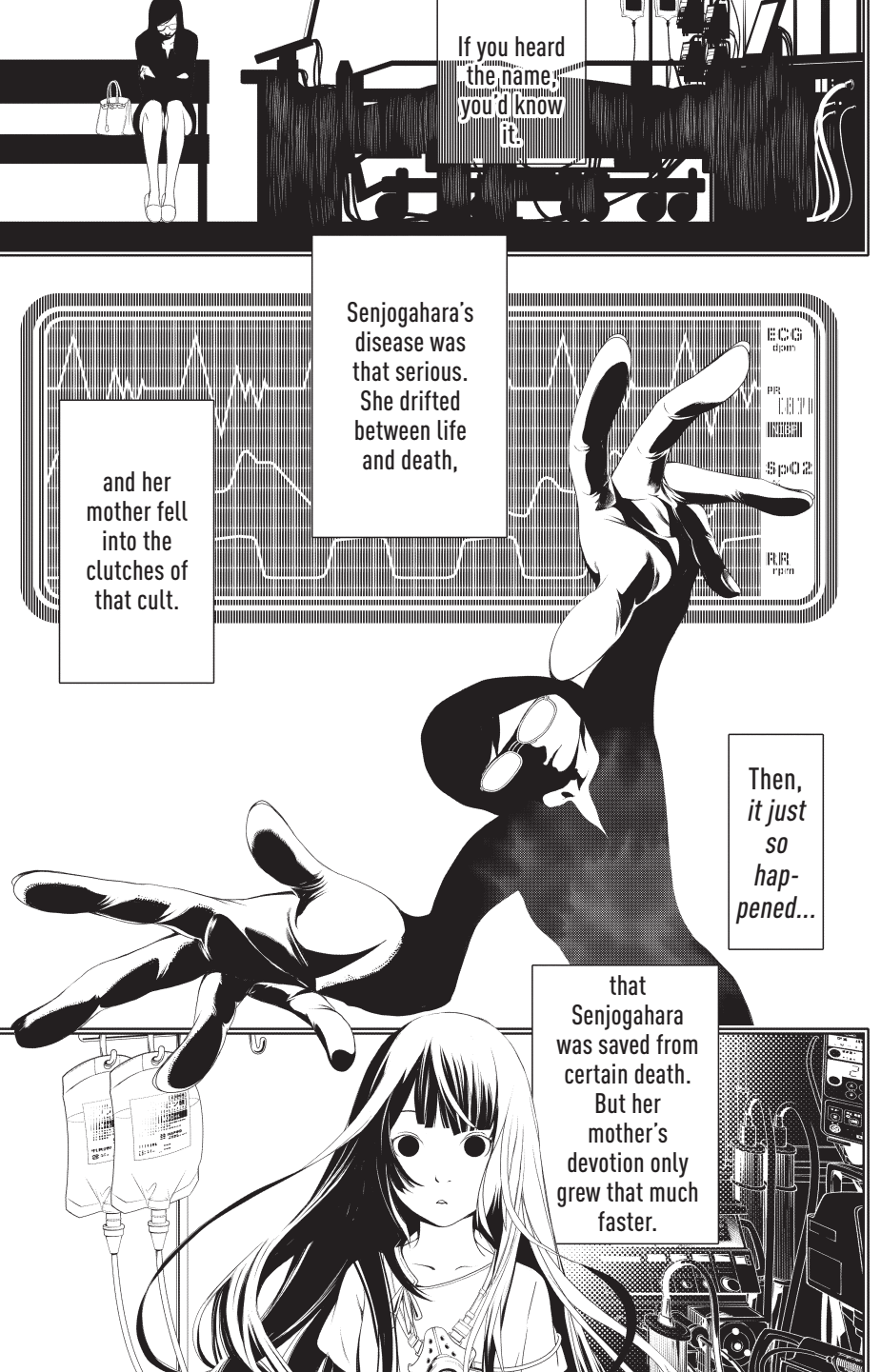


to when Senjogahara had entered fifth grade.

It went back much further than that...

However, that wasn't the case.

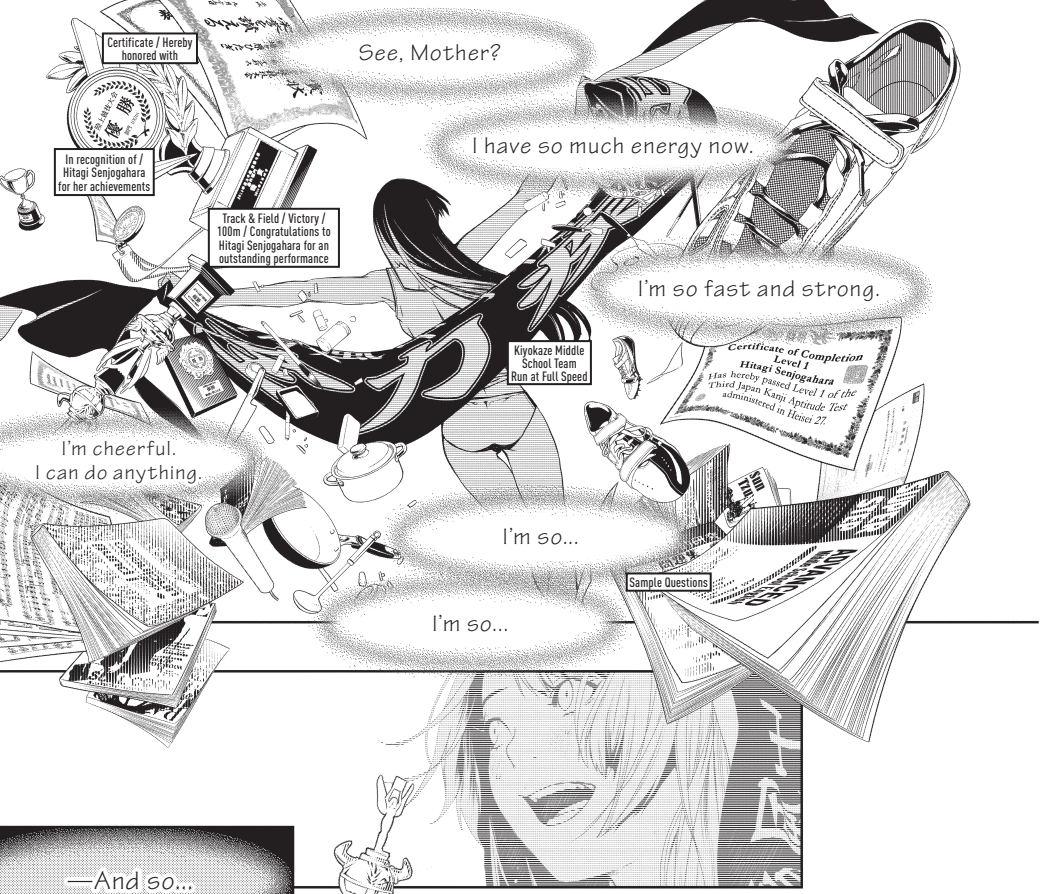



If you heard the name, you'd know it.
Senjogahara's disease was that serious. She drifted between life and death,
and her mother fell into the clutches of that cult.
ECG
PR
SpO2
RR
Then, *it just so happened...*
that Senjogahara was saved from certain death. But her mother's devotion only grew that much faster.

BAKEMONOGATARI

She's like some kind of superwoman.

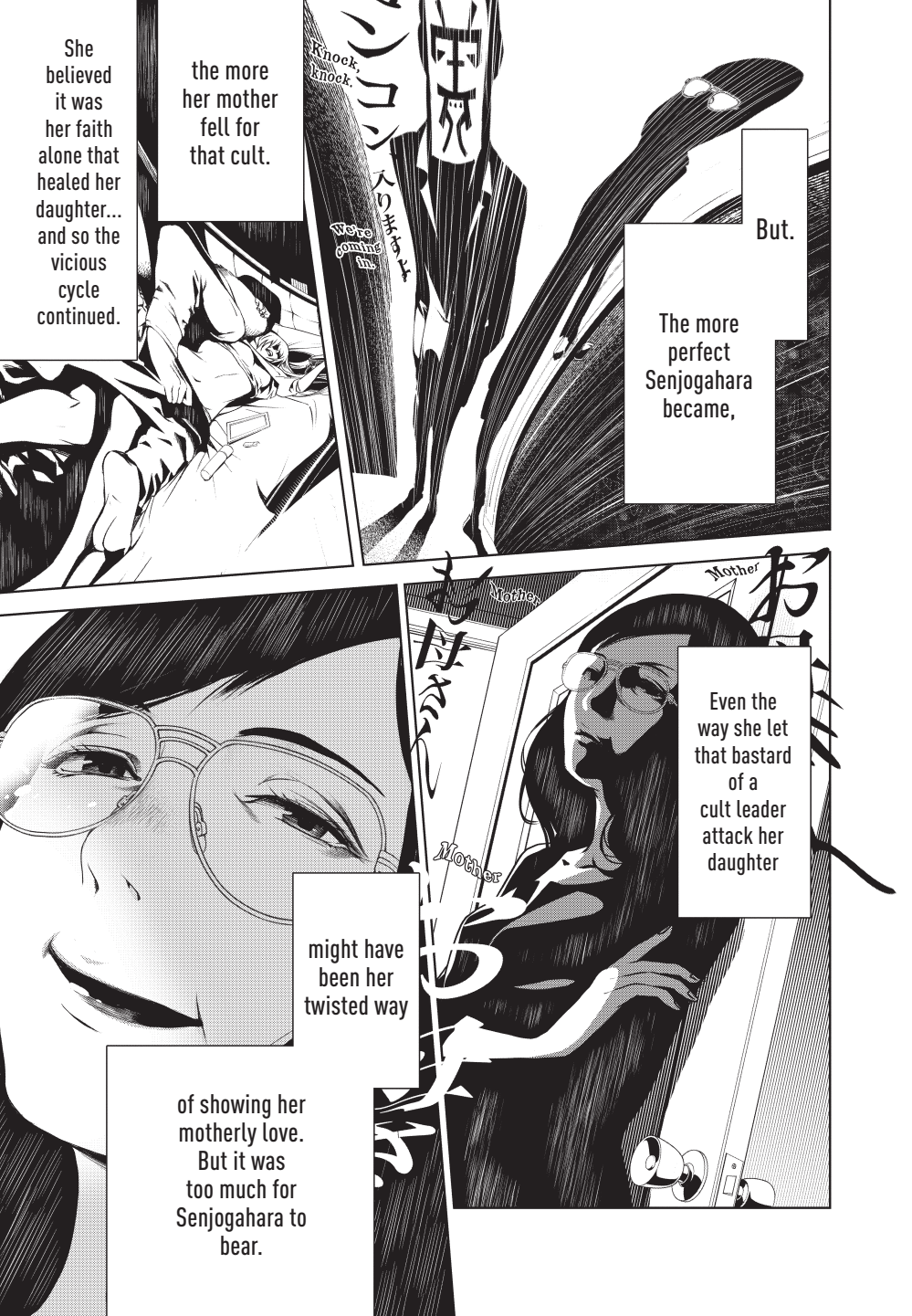
That's right.
Senjogahara wanted to become superhuman... all for the sake of her mother.


Certificate / Hereby honored with
In recognition of / Hitagi Senjogahara for her achievements
Track & Field / Victory / 100m / Congratulations to Hitagi Senjogahara for an outstanding performance
Kiyokaze Middle School Team Run at Full Speed
Certificate of Completion
Level 1
Hitagi Senjogahara
Has hereby passed Level 1 of the Third Japan Kanji Aptitude Test administered in Heisei 27.
Sample Questions
See, Mother?
I have so much energy now.
I'm so fast and strong.
I'm cheerful.
I can do anything.
I'm so...
I'm so...

—And so...

And so, Senjo-gahara became ...
twisted.

"Hitagi" is a term used in construction.
It's made up of the characters for "straight" and "tree."
It's something placed under roof beams to support buildings.
Hanekawa... You really do know everything, don't you?
I don't know everything.
I just know what I know.
Senjogahara must have tried so hard to support her.
She must have whipped herself, the weak body she had, into playing the role of a superhuman
all to support her own mother.

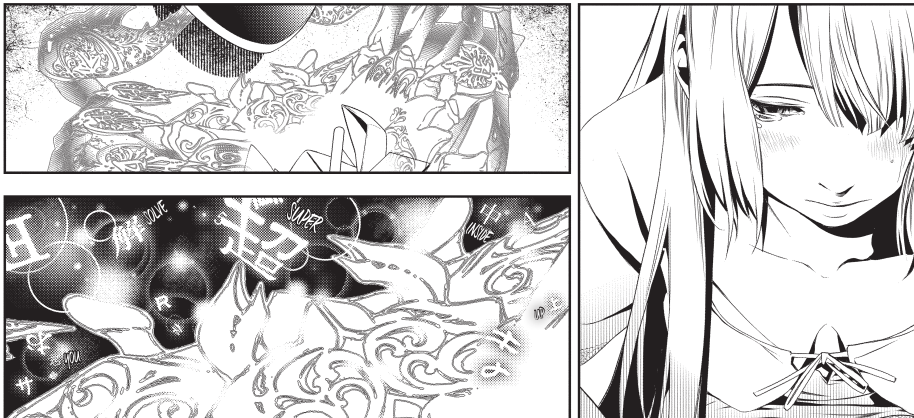

She believed it was her faith alone that healed her daughter... and so the vicious cycle continued.
the more her mother fell for that cult.
Knock, knock.
We're coming in.
But.
The more perfect Senjogahara became,
Mother
Even the way she let that bastard of a cult leader attack her daughter
might have been her twisted way
of showing her motherly love. But it was too much for Senjogahara to bear.

Mother
Which is why...
Senjo-gahara cut ties.
Daughter
That is what she'd sought from a god when her mother's love was too much to take.

But that was a mistake...
There hasn't been a single day... I haven't regretted it.
So please.
My mother ...
Please give me back my mother...
Her smile...
back then...

My mother's smile

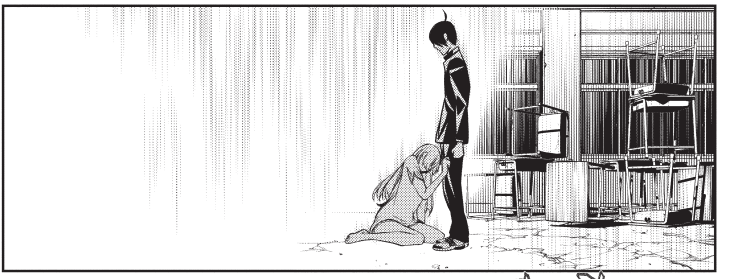
belongs to me alone...



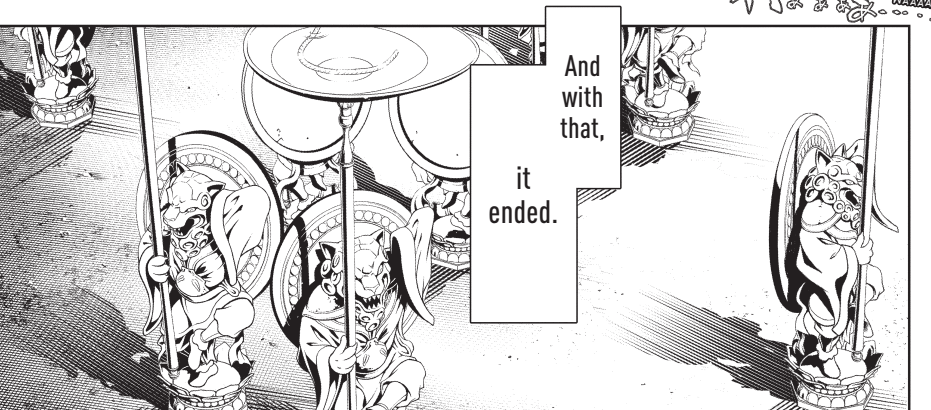
BAM
CRUSH
He stomped on it? No...
It disappeared ...?!
CHKK
PLOP
BWOOF
You know, you don't have to do this.
There's nothing praiseworthy about facing it. If you want to run, go ahead.

But if this is the form that you seek...
that must be
how you feel.
ZZT
...
It's light ...

It's so light...!



わぁぁぁん…
WAAAAH
わぁぁぁん…
WAAAAH


And with that, it ended.

Senjogahara's aberration had ended completely.
I guess that's it?
That said, her life will go on as usual, but that doesn't mean her mother's ever coming back.
Welp, I guess that means nothing's gonna change after all...
No... wait. Doesn't this mean that Senjogahara will always be tormented by those feelings?
No. It's...not like nothing is going to change.

Huh?
Basically, that's what the omoshi-kani is.
Araragi.
You know how the Japanese character for "crab" is written like "a bug that seems to understand"?
A... friend?
Who might that be...?
I might have made a new friend.
At the very least,
I'm saying that it under-stood.
found someone who'd support her in his place.
Our god here

Thank you, Araragi.

I'm very grateful for what you've done. And I'm sorry for everything I've done to this point.
I hope this isn't too forward, but I'd be very happy if we could stay friends.
That ...
surprise attack from Senjo-gahara
sank deep into my heart.

PLOP
ぺた
PLOP
ぺた
Our promise to go eat crabs, though?
That'll have to wait until winter.
GLARE
じー
?!
?!
EYES !!
目
…

化 *bake*

物 *mono*

HITAGIcrab

2

語 *gatari*

化 *bake*

物 *mono*

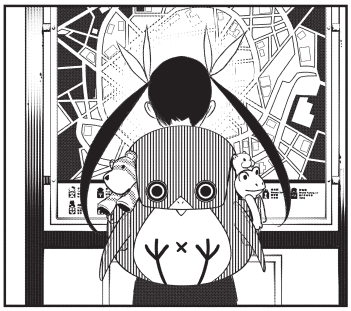
MAYOIsnail

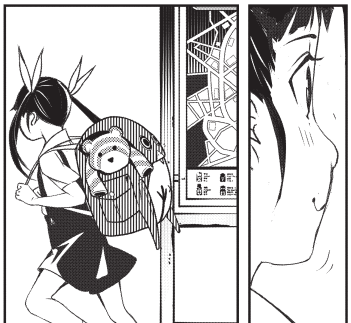
2

語 *gatari*

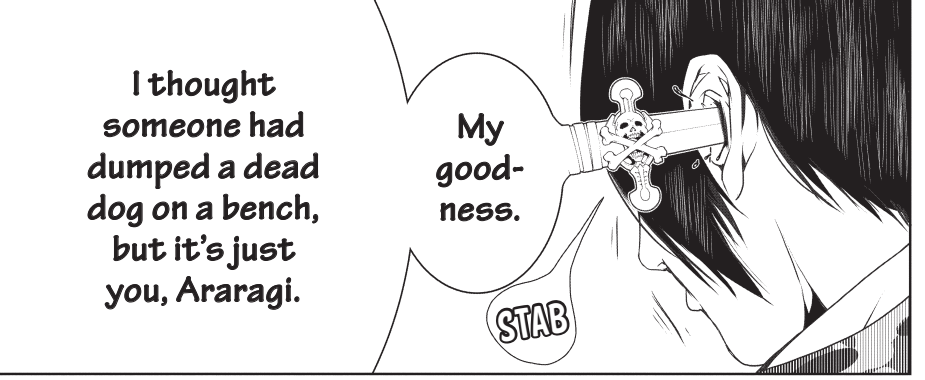
Ugh ...
Guess you're just like me, huh...? Nowhere to go...
Where to, oh dragon fly...
CHOMP
SPLAT
BUT STRAIGHT UP TO HEAVEN!!

Not a soul in the park...
One week has passed since that day.





Park
park is for everyone.
walking around
so that we can
all enjoy
ound.
contact
63-12XX
lease
ublic space
veryone.
Oh, wait.
There is... at least one...


I thought someone had dumped a dead dog on a bench, but it's just you, Araragi.
My goodness.
STAB

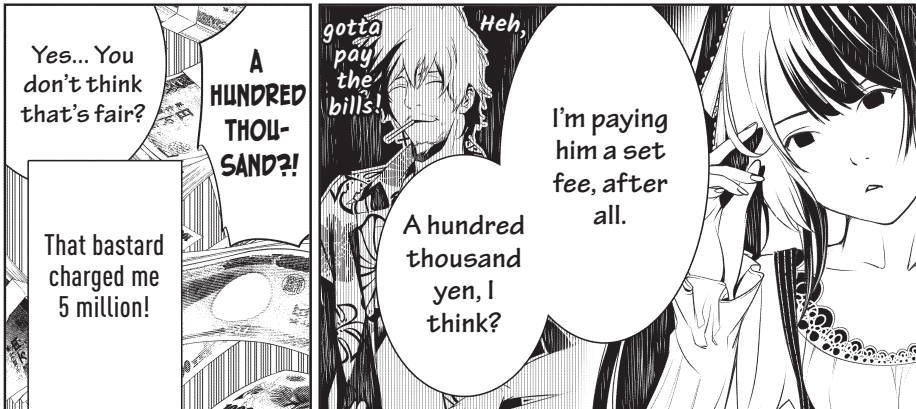
I feel like
I just heard the most unusual greeting ever said in the history of mankind.
Senjogahara...

JIGGLE
Or did I hear something else?!
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
Uh...oh, sure...
I was just starting to feel a little guilty about monopolizing this four-person bench, anyway.
...So,
may I sit next to you?

Um... Isn't she a little close ...?
And... what is it...? Maybe it's because she put her hair up...
but her chest seems to stand out. No...
It's her clothes that make her breas—
JIGGLE
Ara-ragi.
JOLT
YES ?!?

Ah...
Uh-huh—
Oh right!
Yes, that.
I wanted to thank you again... for the other day.

Mister Oshino is a separate matter.
If anything, you're better off just thanking Oshino.
You don't have to thank me.

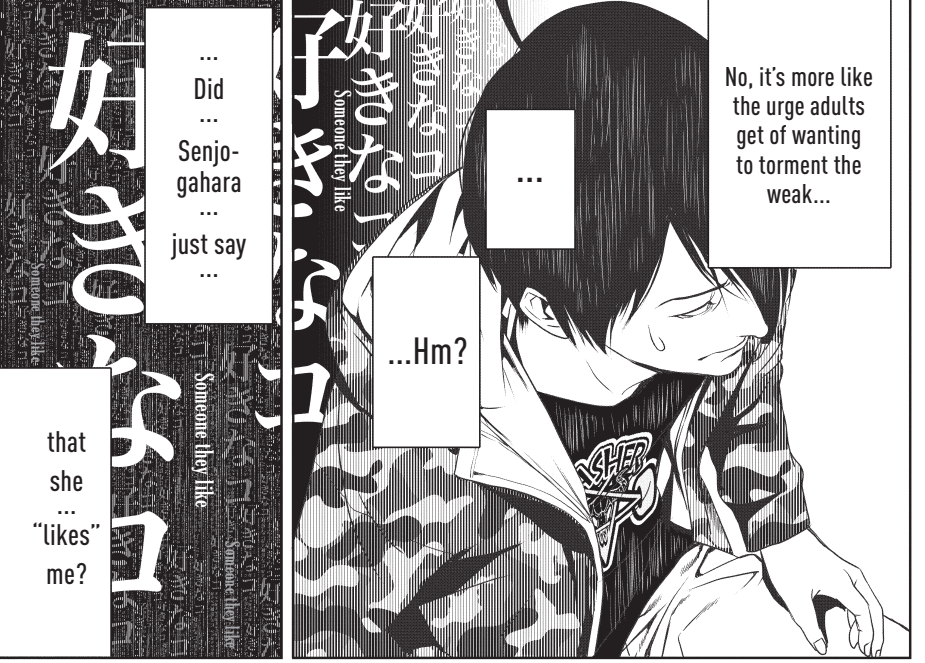

Yes... You don't think that's fair?
A HUNDRED THOU-SAND?!
That bastard charged me 5 million!
Heh, gotta pay the bills!
A hundred thousand yen, I think?
I'm paying him a set fee, after all.

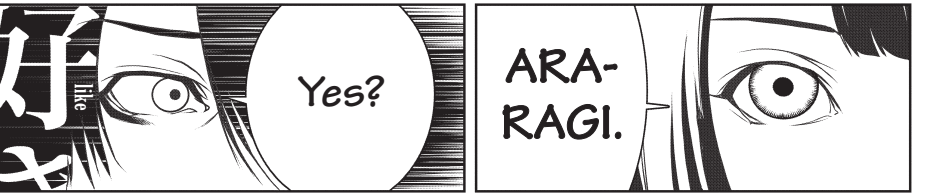
Yes... But someone with my personality isn't fit for labor, so I'm trying to come up with a plan...
HMPH
At least she knows it.

But as you know, my family's financial situation is not great...
Oh... So you're gonna start working part-time?

There must be some way I can skip out on the bill.
YOU WANT THAT KIND OF A PLAN?!
I'm joking.
I'll pay my fair share. But never mind that...
I want to thank you, Araragi.

VWOO
MINE WERE EMPTY FROM THE BEGIN-NING.
They were ?!
Well,
in that case, you've already thanked me enough.
Even words of gratitude can feel empty if they're said too many times.
They come from deep within my chest... which you've been rudely glancing at this whole time.
They aren't empty. Or rather, they weren't.
I'm kidding.
Oh, I'm sorry.
For some reason, I always have the urge to deny or contradict every little thing that you say.
I think I know what it is. It's probably the same thing that kids feel—the urge to bully that special someone they like.

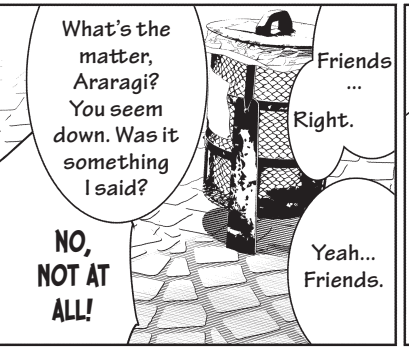

No, it's more like the urge adults get of wanting to torment the weak...
...
...Hm?
... Did ... Senjo-gahara ... just say ...
that she ... "likes" me?
好きなコ
Someone they like

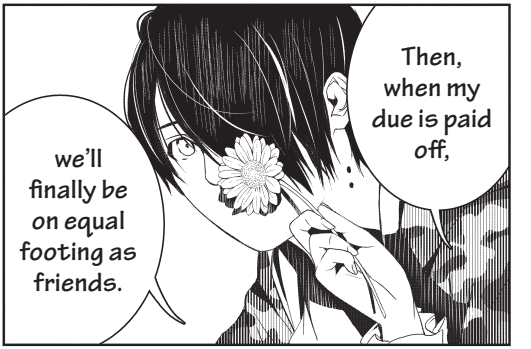

ARA-RAGI.
Yes?
like

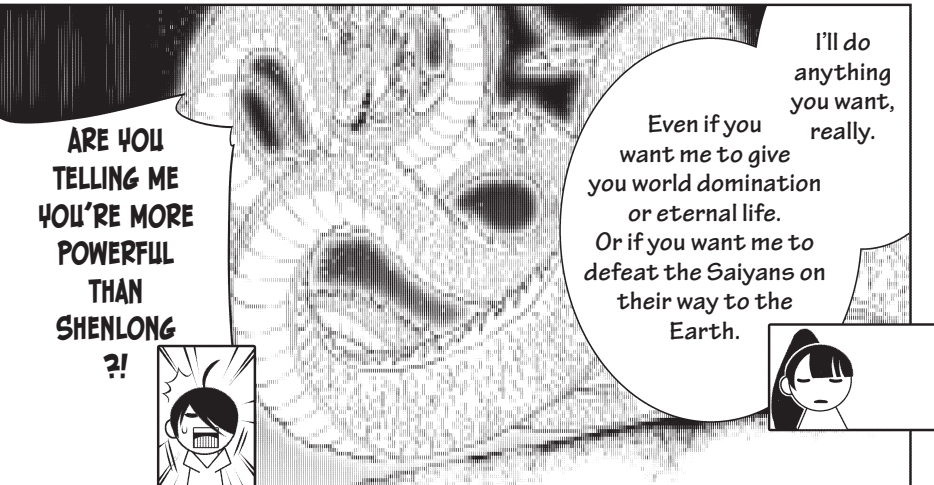
Is it all right for me to think of us as close?
Well... of course.
Huh ?
Where is this going?
She's making me nervous.
That's right. We hold each other's weakness in our hands.
Wait, is our relation-ship that intense ...?
It's almost like... she's about to confess her love to me...

Just one thing.
I'll do any one thing you tell me to do.
FLICK

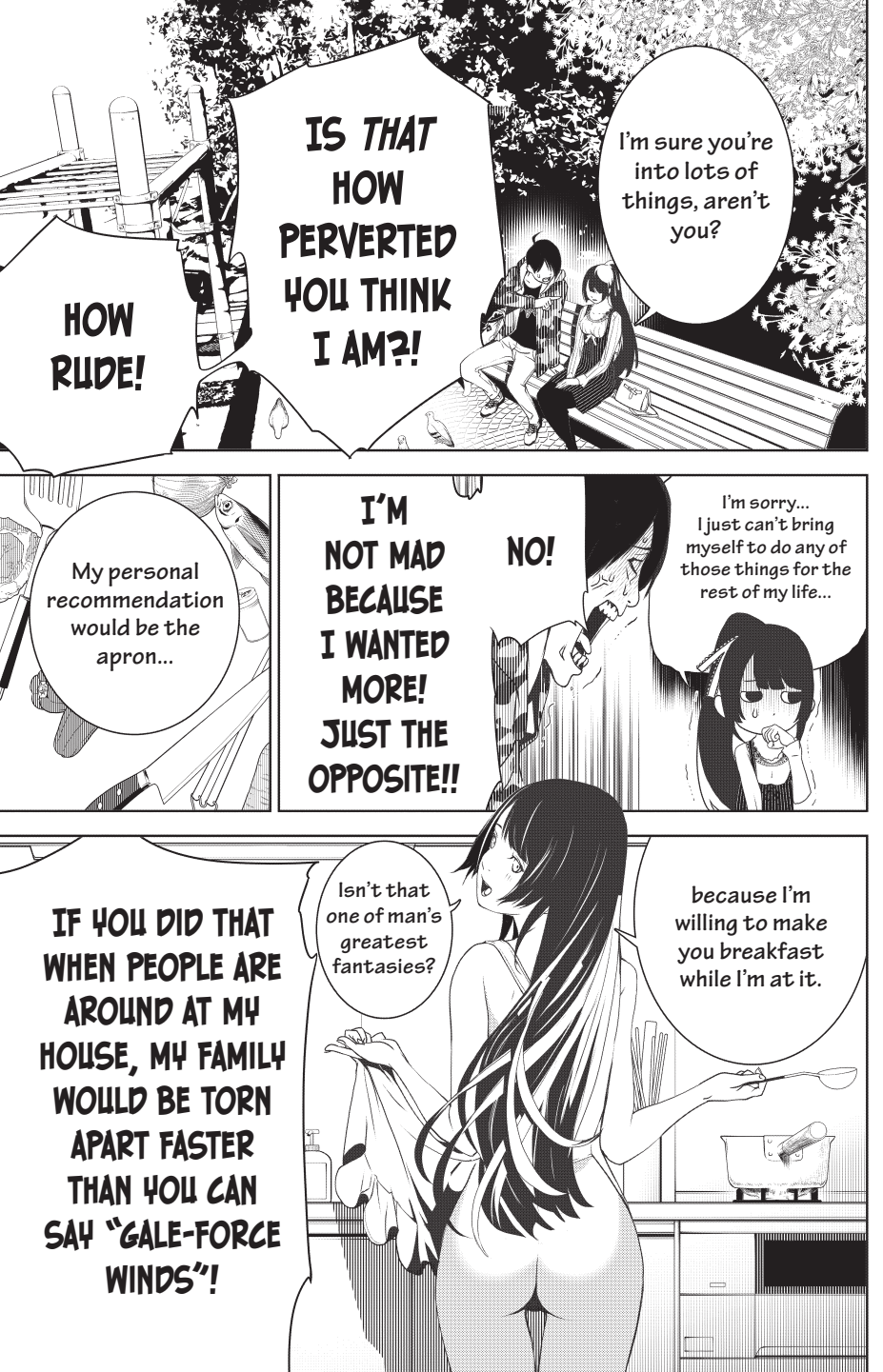
I'll always feel like I owe you.
I don't care what you say, I want to pay you back.
Because if I don't,


What's the matter, Araragi? You seem down. Was it something I said?
NO, NOT AT ALL!
Friends ...
Right.
Yeah... Friends.


Then, when my due is paid off,
we'll finally be on equal footing as friends.


ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU'RE MORE POWERFUL THAN SHENLONG ?!
Even if you want me to give you world domination or eternal life. Or if you want me to defeat the Saiyans on their way to the Earth.
I'll do anything you want, really.

MEW
MEW
MEW
MEW
MEW
MEW
I can end all my sentences with "-MEW" for one week.
Or I can go to school with no panties on for one week.
Or I can come wake you up every morning in nothing but an apron for one week.
Or I can help you use enemas to go on a diet for one week.


I'm sure you're into lots of things, aren't you?
IS THAT HOW PERVERTED YOU THINK I AM?!
HOW RUDE!
I'm sorry... I just can't bring myself to do any of those things for the rest of my life...
NO!
I'M NOT MAD BECAUSE I WANTED MORE! JUST THE OPPOSITE!!
My personal recommendation would be the apron...
because I'm willing to make you breakfast while I'm at it.
Isn't that one of man's greatest fantasies?
IF YOU DID THAT WHEN PEOPLE ARE AROUND AT MY HOUSE, MY FAMILY WOULD BE TORN APART FASTER THAN YOU CAN SAY "GALE-FORCE WINDS"!

Listen, Senjo-gahara.
Even if we somehow struck an agreement like that,
I don't think we'd be able to stay friends afterwards.
Now that you mention it, you're right.
Okay then, nothing erotic.

...
Does she think ending sentences with "–mew" is erotic...?
What kind of kink is that...?

In any case,
I know you'd never ask for something erotic.
Oh?
You really trust me, don't you?

It's nice and easy being with a virgin. They never ask for much.
HOLD ON A SEC-OND!
You are a virgin, after all.
...I guess I did tell her that.
You said stuff about virgins the other day, too,
but it's not like you have any experience yourself.
So when you call me a virgin like that, it's like...
No way!!
Open for business
DONE
What are you talking about?
I have experi-ence.

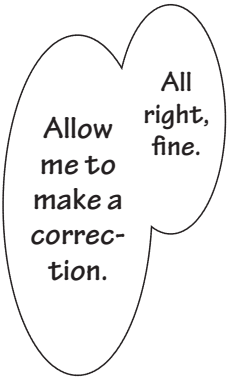
I do it all over the place.
HRMPH
... This girl ...
All she cares about is contradicting every word that I say...

... Hrm...

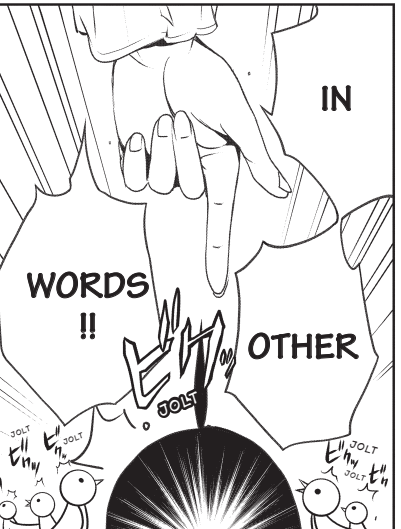
HEH ...

what can you gain by telling me that fact, Senjogahara?

Fine, then ...
Even if that were somehow true...


All right, fine.
Allow me to make a correc-tion.

I'm a virgin.
I don't have any experience.


IN
WORDS
!!
OTHER
ビリ
JOLT

...
Okay
...
Sure, it's a confession
...
but not the one I had in mind!!

The only girl who would talk to a virgin loser like you...

is a crazy spinster like me!!!
Resignation
脱帽
She's even prepared to degrade herself
if she can verbally abuse me...
Wonder
驚異
Admiration
It's almost admirable.

as the spring breeze rolled in.

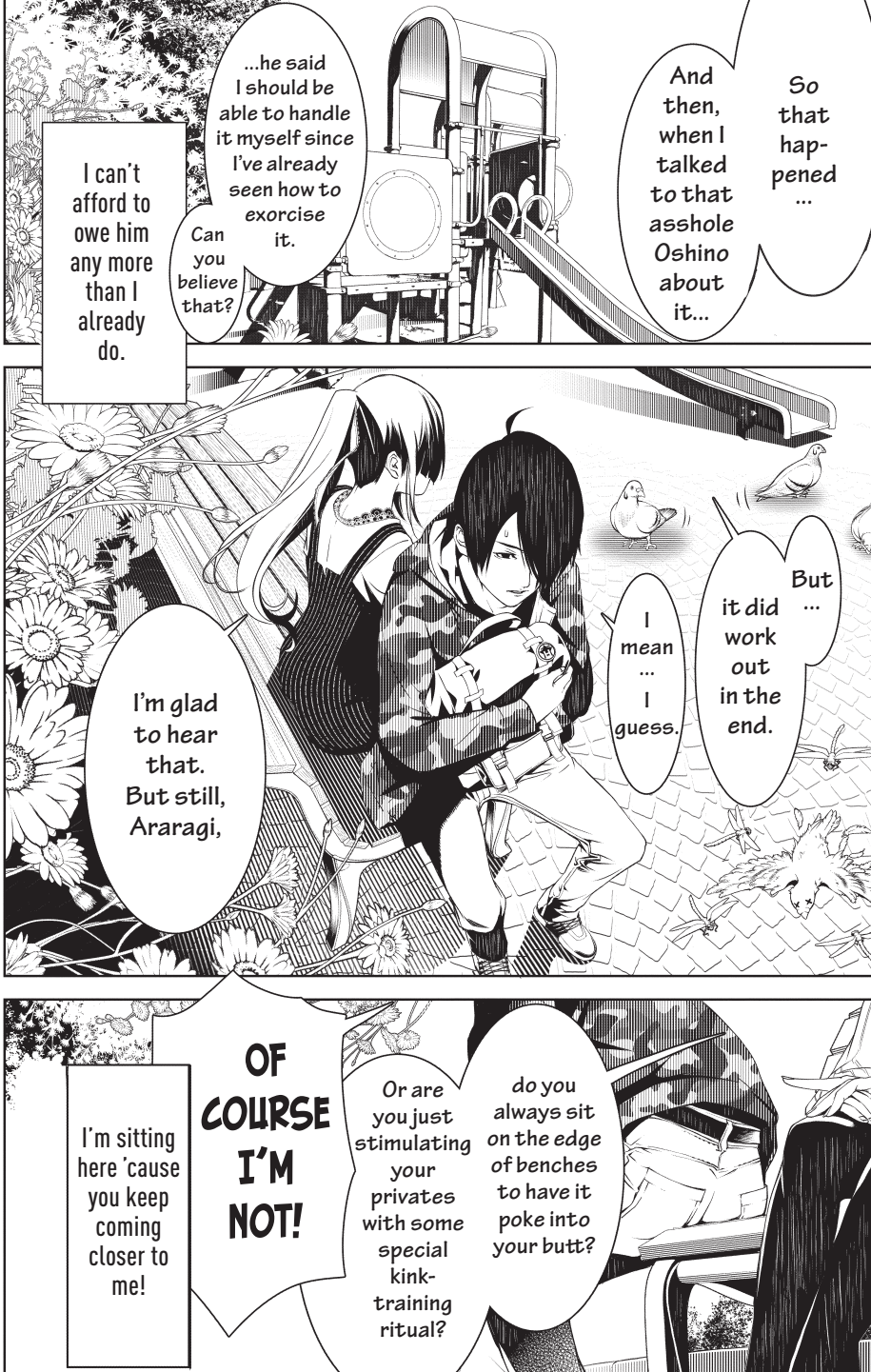
was carried off to god-knows-where

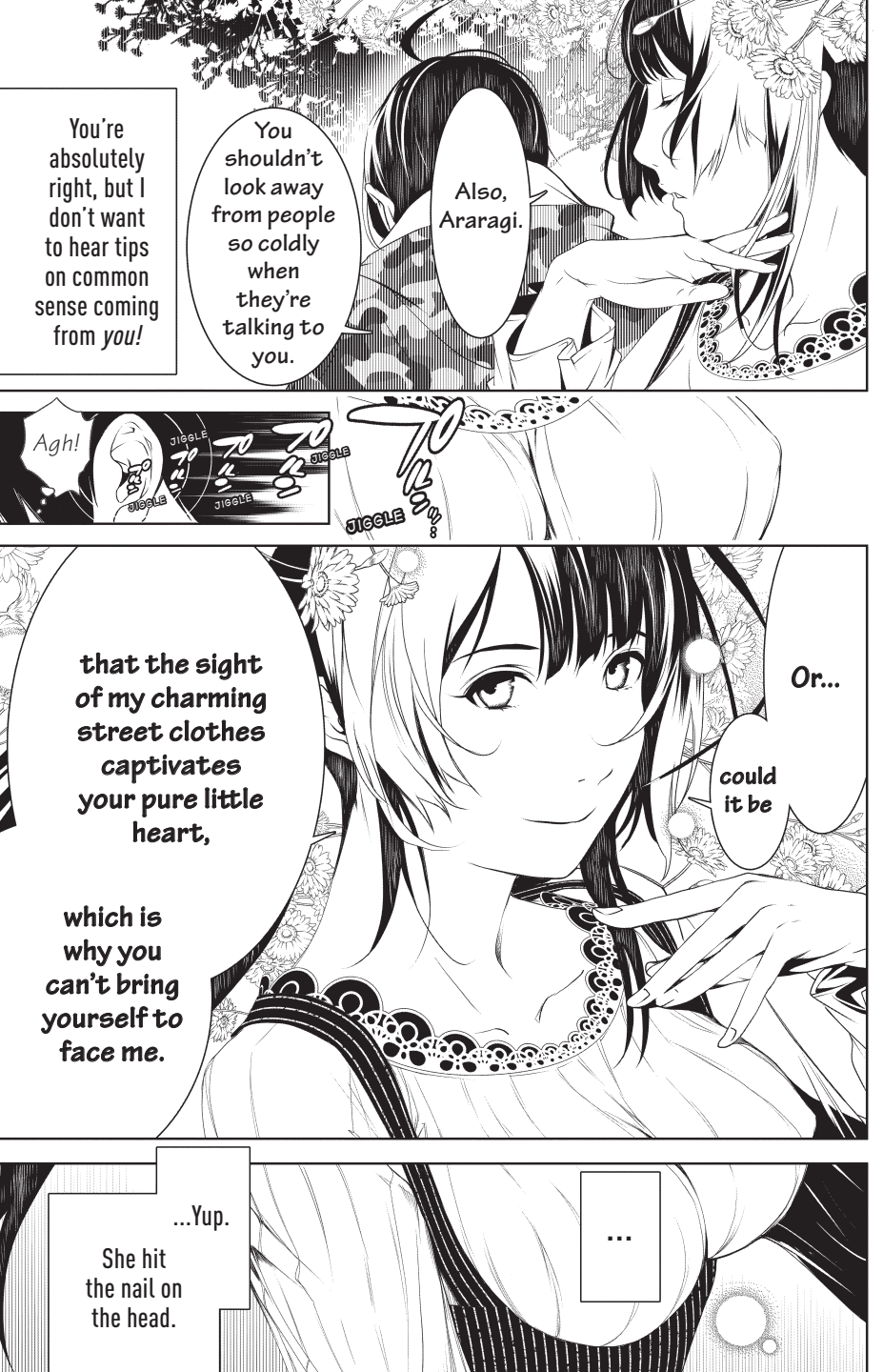
I don't think you're "not good with words."

And so,
for the epilogue ...
Ready, and...!
or rather, the punch line of this story:
Flying double-team dogpile!!
Ko-yomi!
Wake uuuup!
The morning after Senjogahara faced off against the crab,
I was roused from my bed, as usual...
Gur-gh!
BOOOM
by my little sisters Karen and Tsukihi.

KREAK
KREAK
KREAK
I swear on my fist that's not gonna happen!
They're gonna kill me some day...
I swear, I'm buying an alarm clock the next time I get my allow-ance ...
KREAK
KREAK
What's going on...?
Why do I feel so... heavy?
All my joints hurt, and I feel lethargic, like I have a fever or some-thing...
Those five or six broken vertebrae should've healed by now...
!!
WHUMP
These guys are a pretty undiscerning bunch.
They really couldn't care less about us on an individual basis...

THOOM
TANITA
100.0
kg
100.0
kg
Oh, come on ...
...It's true.
The gods are a truly undis-cerning bunch...


So that happened...
And then, when I talked to that asshole Oshino about it...
...he said I should be able to handle it myself since I've already seen how to exorcise it.
Can you believe that?
I can't afford to owe him any more than I already do.
But...
it did work out in the end.
I mean... I guess.
I'm glad to hear that. But still, Araragi,
do you always sit on the edge of benches to have it poke into your butt?
Or are you just stimulating your privates with some special kink-training ritual?
OF COURSE I'M NOT!
I'm sitting here 'cause you keep coming closer to me!


You're absolutely right, but I don't want to hear tips on common sense coming from *you!*
You shouldn't look away from people so coldly when they're talking to you.
Also, Araragi.
Agh!
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
that the sight of my charming street clothes captivates your pure little heart,
which is why you can't bring yourself to face me.
Or...
could it be
...Yup.
She hit the nail on the head.
...

...
Okay.
Sounds like the setup for a fanservice episode.
草
Grass
+
湯
Hot bath
You know, the way "captivate" is written in Japanese is pretty neat.
It's made up of the "grass" radical and the character for "hot bath."
草
Grass
+
明
Bright
And the feeling for something that makes your heart melt is "grass" plus "bright," right?
Personally, I think to "smelt" someone's heart
would be a notch above that. People are expecting it to become an emotive next-gen term.
Like "that maid smelted my heart!"
Or "I smelt for cat ears!"
I do hope it catches on.
You should use it, Araragi.
Who would I ever say that to?!

...Back to that again, huh...
Er,
I don't have an immediate answer to that...
...So? Have you decided?
What kind of trouble do you want me to fix?
I'm sure.
After all, you don't have bed head today.
What ...?
Is she saying that my only problem is having messy hair?!

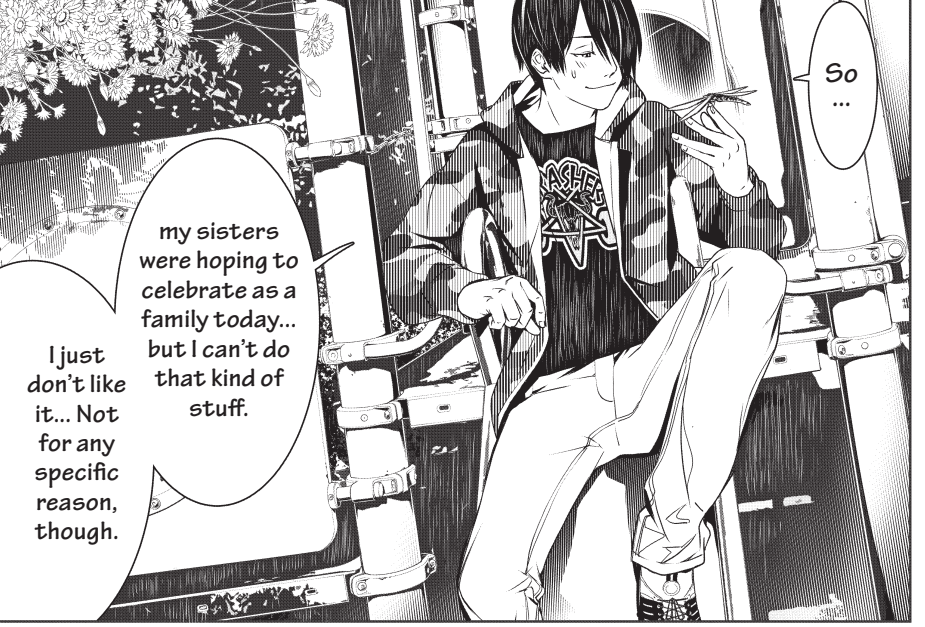
She makes it sound like I feel nothing but lust...
No thanks.
Next.
Upon my name, I hereby allow you to unleash your desires on me.
Okay, I get it. We're not getting anywhere like this.
Or maybe you want a girlfriend?
YOU'RE TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ME, AREN'T YOU?! I SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING!!
Like to graduate, at least?
Hey... Isn't there anything you want?
And what would happen... if I said yes...?
FWOOSH

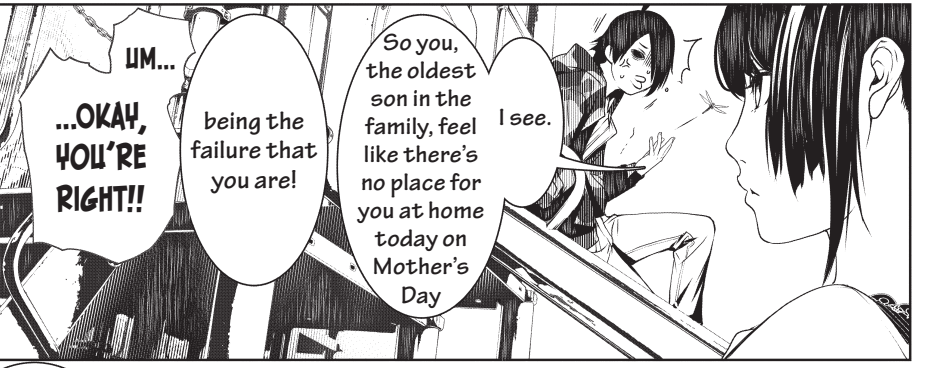
You'd get a girlfriend.
That's all.
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
...
I could read into that if I wanted to, but...
...
No, I'm okay... without that.
...I see.

HMM...
Well, now what ...?

Mnh.
Mmnh.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS DOING!!
Finished working up your erogenous zones?
Well...
It's not a problem, per se...
...but...
I feel like I need to address her troubled expression
before addressing the worries I might have.
TELL ME!
WHAT? WHAT IS IT?!
RIGHT OF WAY
STOP

I had a fight with my sister.
I'm not sure I can help you with that.
YOU SAID ANYTHING, DIDN'T YOU?!
She gives up so easily !!
Today is Mother's Day... right?
I suppose so.
I thought the word "mother" would be off-limits with Senjogahara, but...
Looks like it's okay.

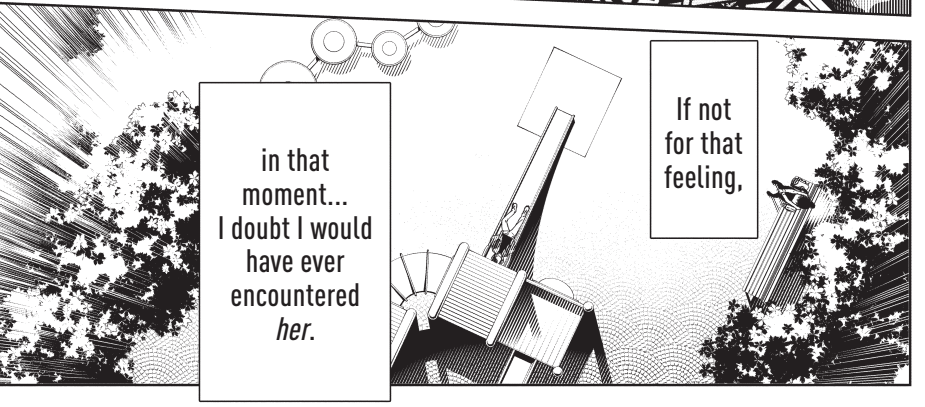

So ...
my sisters were hoping to celebrate as a family today... but I can't do that kind of stuff.
I just don't like it... Not for any specific reason, though.

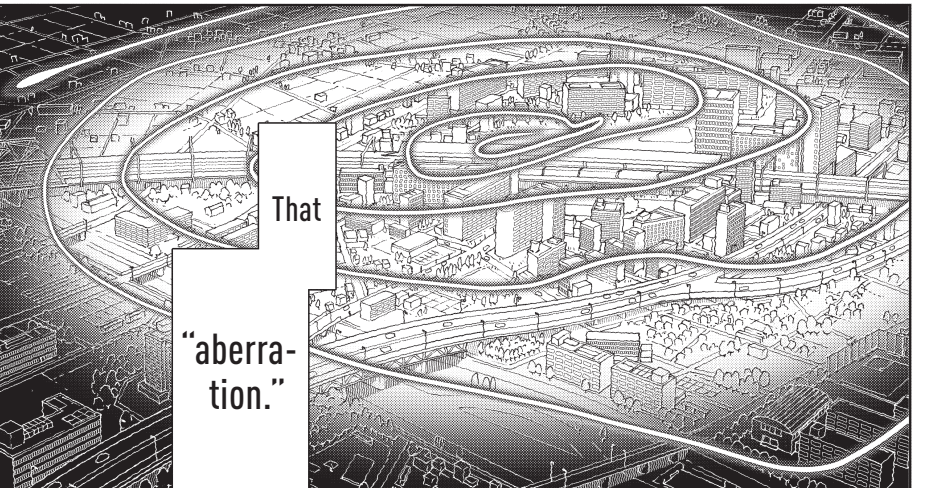

I see.
So you, the oldest son in the family, feel like there's no place for you at home today on Mother's Day
being the failure that you are!
UM...
...OKAY, YOU'RE RIGHT!!

Yes, Tsukihi and Karen.
The famed Fire Sisters of Tsuganoki Second Middle School.
WHY DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT? EVEN THEIR NICKNAME ?!
Why wouldn't I look into people who might end up my enemies?
Enemies ?!
Damn, she's scary!!
Tsuganoki 2
KAREN
TSUKIHI

Ko-
yo-
mi
!!
That's
why...
You
know,
Koyomi.
That's
why.
This morning... my little sister caught me trying to sneak out of the house.
I guess you could say we had an argument...? Basically, we got into a big fight over nothing...
So between me not being able to bring myself to celebrate Mother's Day and seriously getting angry at my little sister, who's four years younger than me,
I guess you could say that I'm just annoyed by how petty I am, or just by everything in general. That's why I can't apologize to my sister.
In other words ...
I don't want to go home.

That's right.
I don't want to go home.


If not for that feeling,
in that moment... I doubt I would have ever encountered *her*.


That "aberration."

Hm?
I swear ...
that grade schooler was just there... a second ago...
Area Map
What's the matter?

Are you lost?
Please don't speak to me!!
I don't like you !!!

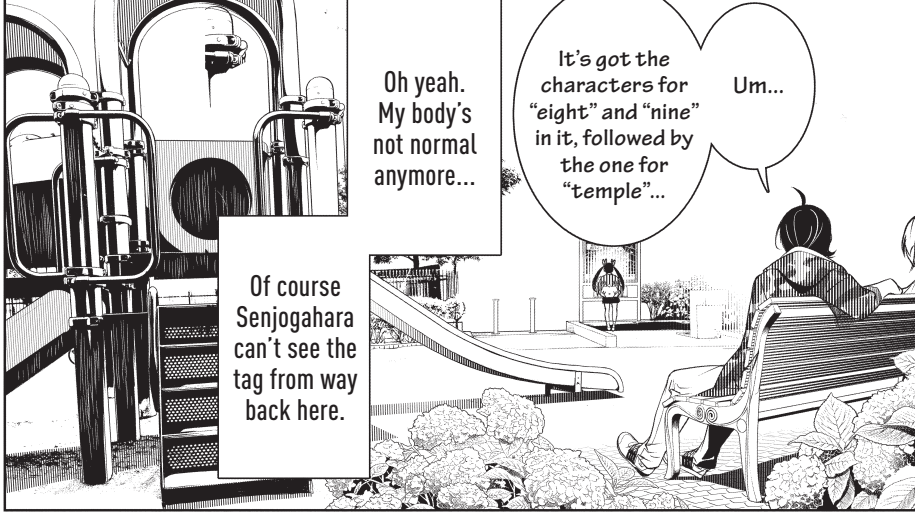
Bakemonogatari

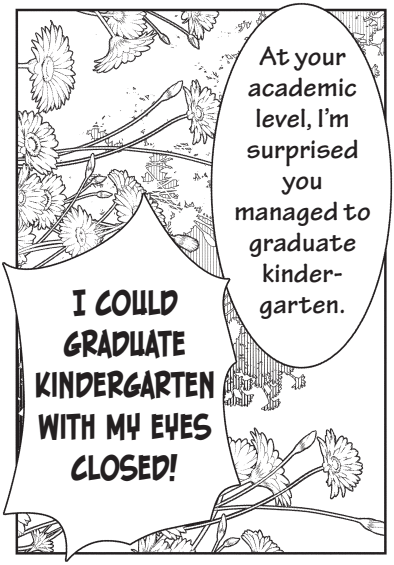
02: Mayoi Snail

Please don't speak to me!!
I don't like you !!!
...
I...

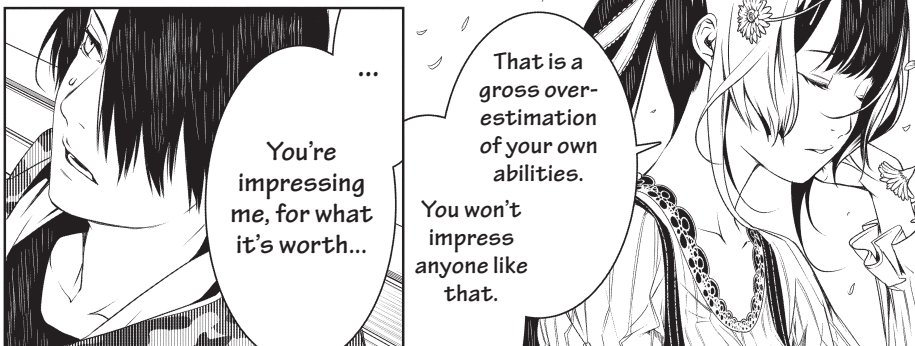
...I returned to the bench in a zombie-like daze.
ETSU MAP
...was even worse... than I expected...
The damage
Did something happen?
SKREEK
SKREEK
SKREEEEK

Hm? How do you read that name...?
"Yaku-dera"?
Class 5-3
NAME
八九寺真宵
Hey, Senjo-gahara.
See that little kid over there?
How do you read her name...? The name on her tag.
Huh?
I can't see what you're talking about.
Oh— right.
I forgot.


Oh yeah. My body's not normal anymore...
Of course Senjogahara can't see the tag from way back here.
Um...
It's got the characters for "eight" and "nine" in it, followed by the one for "temple"...


At your academic level, I'm surprised you managed to graduate kinder-garten.
I COULD GRADUATE KINDERGARTEN WITH MY EYES CLOSED!

That would read "HACHIKUJI."
Are you that illiterate, Araragi?


...
You're impressing me, for what it's worth...
That is a gross over-estimation of your own abilities.
You won't impress anyone like that.

Why did you ask how that name is pronounced?
You know, there are such things as dumb questions, Araragi, but you're dumb whether you ask them or not.
All right, I get it. I'm a bad student. Whatever.
A shameful heart first manifests itself in the ears. Those who have shame in their hearts cannot properly listen.
耳心
SHAME
Acknowledging that fact doesn't make it any better.
...Did I do something wrong...?
I thought she just said that she wanted to thank me...
Where are you going?
To go talk to that girl.
I wouldn't if I were you. You're just going to get hurt.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
GSST

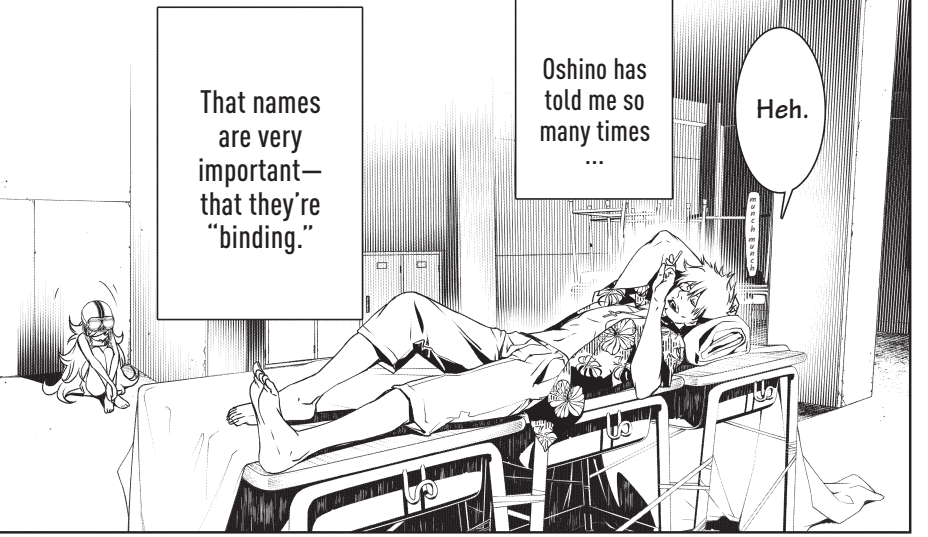
Huh ...?!
Is she looking for an address ...?
CLOSE...
Hey, you.
...
You're lost, right?
Where do you want to go?
...
SUPER SUSPICIOUS
GRIN
HERE, LEMME SEE THAT PIECE OF PAPER.
...
Araragi, what are you doing? Frankly, I have no idea.
I'M HURT! I JUST GOT HURT IN THE END!!
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
OKAY, ONE MORE TIME FROM THE TOP!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
ANYONE WOULD TURN AROUND AFTER BEING SMACKED FROM BEHIND!
Thank goodness.
So you finally turn around.
Oh... Sorry for smacking you.
Naoetsu Town Map
KLONG
しっ
MNH
SMAK
Hey!
It just really upset me...
Sorry...
Did you know that the word "life" contains the character for "smack" in Japanese?
I DON'T GET IT!
It seems... I wasn't able to fool you!!
YOU THINK?!
FLASH
LIFE
YOU HIT ME SO HARD I SAW STARS!
When life smacks you down, you're shining your brightest !!

Looking back on it, I think
What's your name?
I'm Koyomi Araragi.
that until that very moment, I could've turned back.
But who knows.
ZPLAASH

That was the moment ...
I *stepped into it.*
OOOZE
OOOZE

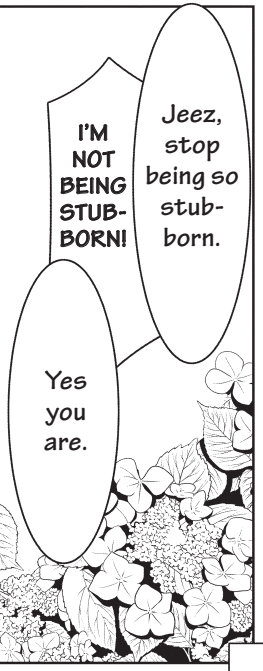
...!!
...
He truly never learns.
He asked her name.
Hm?


That names are very important—that they're "binding."
Oshino has told me so many times ...
Heh.
MAYOI.

MAYOI
HACHI-
KUJI.

...So.
Mister "Koyomi" you said ...?
What a girly name.
YOU REEK OF GIRLISH-NESS! DON'T COME NEAR ME!!
Anyway, please don't talk to me!
I don't like people who suddenly smack me from behind!!
Fair enough.
But you said you didn't like me even before I smacked you.
THEN IT MUST BE KARMA FROM A PRE-VIOUS LIFE!
No one's ever disliked me so much.
CHOMP
Anyway, just try to relax.
Wait, maybe I should relax first.
I'll start by easing her mind...
In this town, I'm known as a friend to man and beast alike, you know.

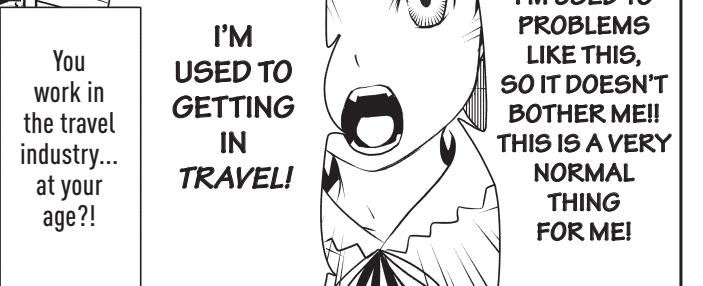
SHORT-ENING IT JUST MADE THE INSULT MUCH WORSE !!
You stink! Go away!!
Okay then, Mister Beast Alike.


I'M NOT BEING STUB-BORN!
Jeez, stop being so stub-born.
Yes you are.

You're right. That was too harsh, so let me correct myself.
...Hm.

The first part almost made sense, but then you messed it up!
YOU'RE REEKY! DON'T COME NEAR ME!

...


You work in the travel industry... at your age?!
I'M USED TO GETTING IN TRAVEL!
I'M USED TO PROBLEMS LIKE THIS, SO IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME!! THIS IS A VERY NORMAL THING FOR ME!

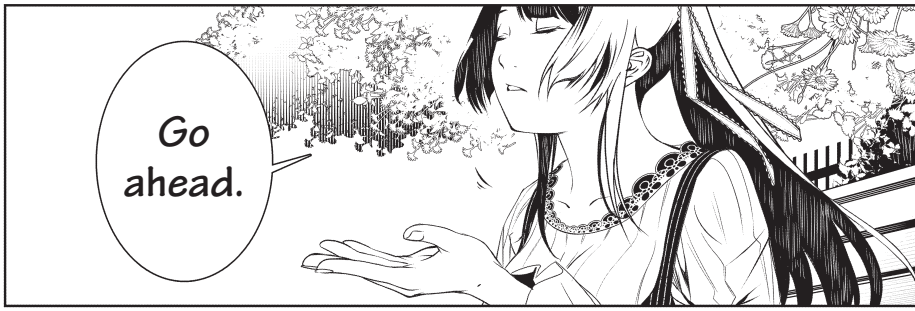
PAH
WHOOSH
SKRR
HI-YAH! TAKE THAT !!
!
She's fast!
WHAP

But.
GRAB
SNATCH
TUG
She's still just a kid !!
AH !
FWIP
DEAR !!
I'm not a pedophile,
so I'm not the least bit shaken by the contents of her skirt being in full view.

Well,
no explanation is needed.
Why are we fighting?
YANK
AGH!
POP
This is simply a case of one warrior soul calling out to another...
—Still... She's too weak. She can't hurt me.
It's just a difference of age and battle experience.
With her light weight and poor stance, she can't stand firm on the ground.
Heh heh...

Hup!
THUD
Hah.
...
You fool!
Did you really think a grade schooler could beat up a high schooler ?!
Bwa hahaha haha!
...
STAAARE

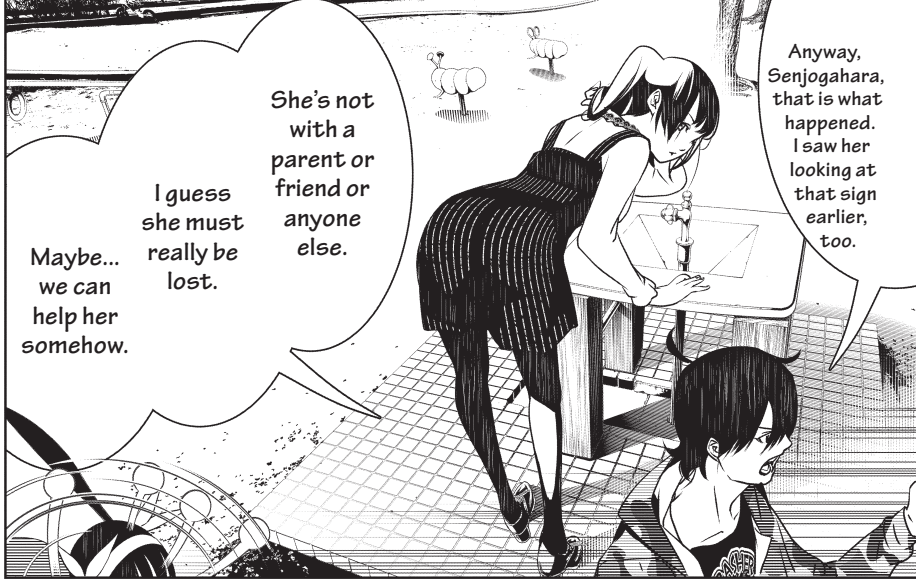
Allow me to defend myself.


Go ahead.

Actually, why don't we forget past misfortunes and speak constructively instead?
Once again, nothing.
LEAP

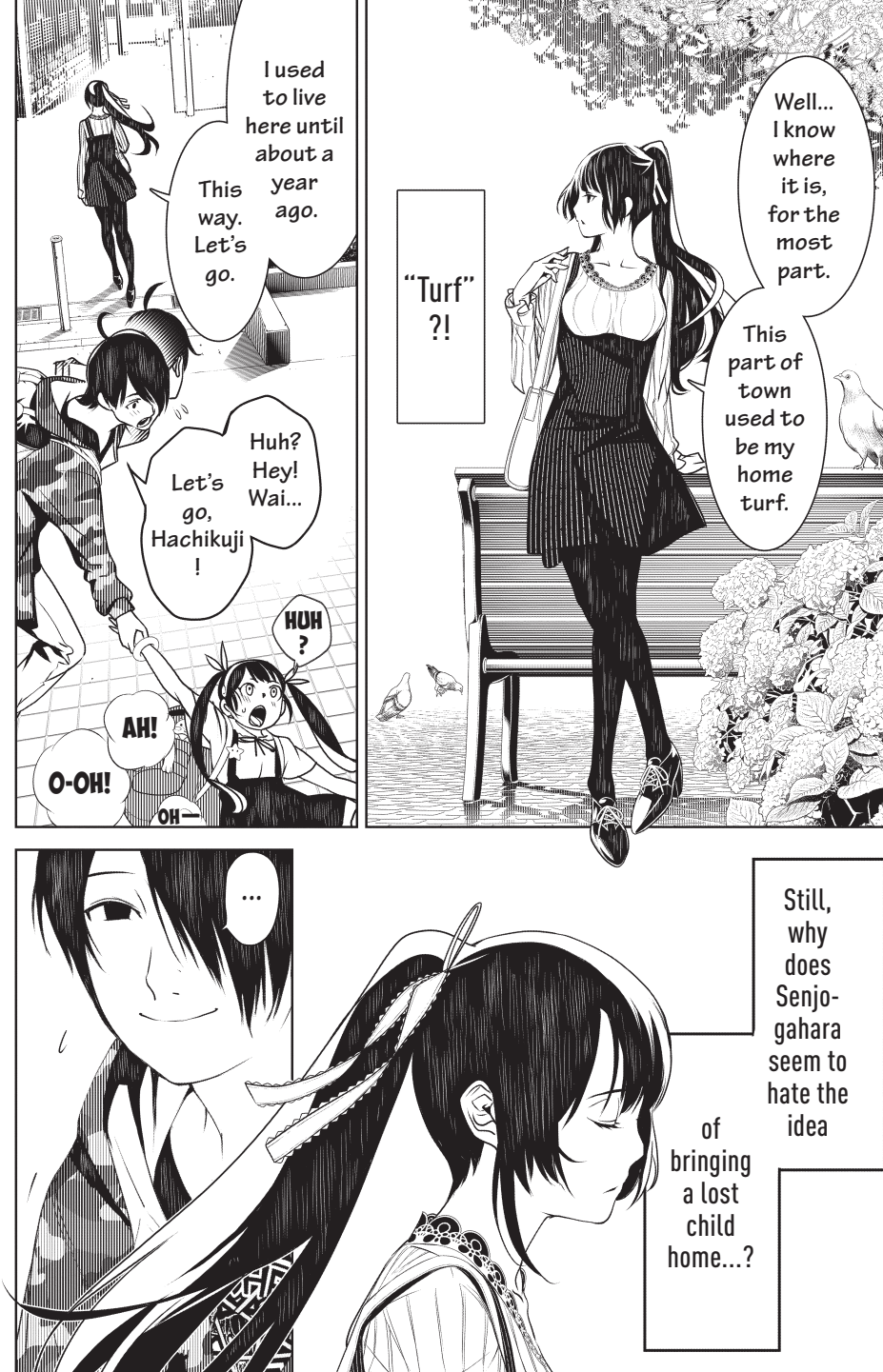
...
I got nothing.

AH!!..
Oh. So you're up, Hachikuji.
I... had a dream.
A dream where I was physically abused by a high schooler ...
Huh.
Sounds like one of those "opposite-of-reality dreams."
GRAAH
GRAAH
GRAAH
THP
THP
THP
WHAT KIND OF DREAM IS THAT?!


Anyway, Senjogahara, that is what happened. I saw her looking at that sign earlier, too.
She's not with a parent or friend or anyone else.
I guess she must really be lost.
Maybe... we can help her somehow.

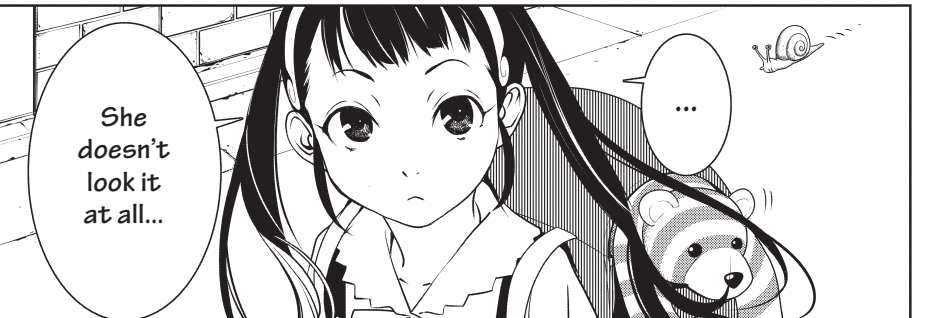
ICE
SKRRK
... Huh ...
Here. It looks like she wants to go here.
Do you know where it is?
THOOMP
THOOMP
THOOMP
THOOMP
IIIIT BAA-ACK !
GIIIVE
CRASH
Ow... Your glare hurts, Senjo-gahara...
She must think that I'm a pedophile, and an actual child abuser, too...

I don't want to touch anything that's touched you.
She really hates me now.
Then I'll just read it aloud...
Okay... er...
...
Oh, jeez ...
We were getting along pretty well a few moments ago...
Huh... It's so strange ...


I used to live here until about a year ago.
This way. Let's go.
Huh? Hey! Wai...
Let's go, Hachikuji!
HUH?
AH!
O-OH!
OH—
"Turf" ?!
Well... I know where it is, for the most part.
This part of town used to be my home turf.
...
Still, why does Senjogahara seem to hate the idea of bringing a lost child home...?

Does she consider this
my "one wish"?
"I'll do any one thing you tell me to do."
I blew it...
I just wasted a wish...
Ah, jeez...
...If that's the case...

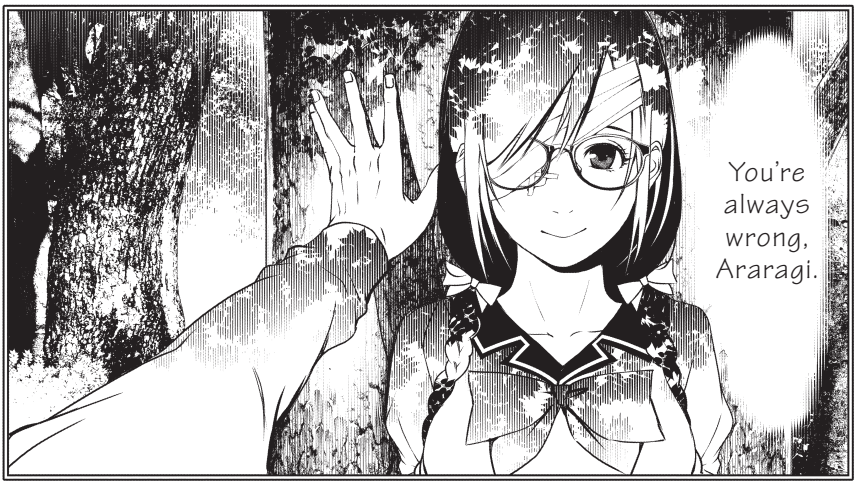
I know the lady over there looks real crabby,
but once you get used to her, you'll come to love her spicy, habanero-like air!
She's a good, honest person deep down.


...
She doesn't look it at all...

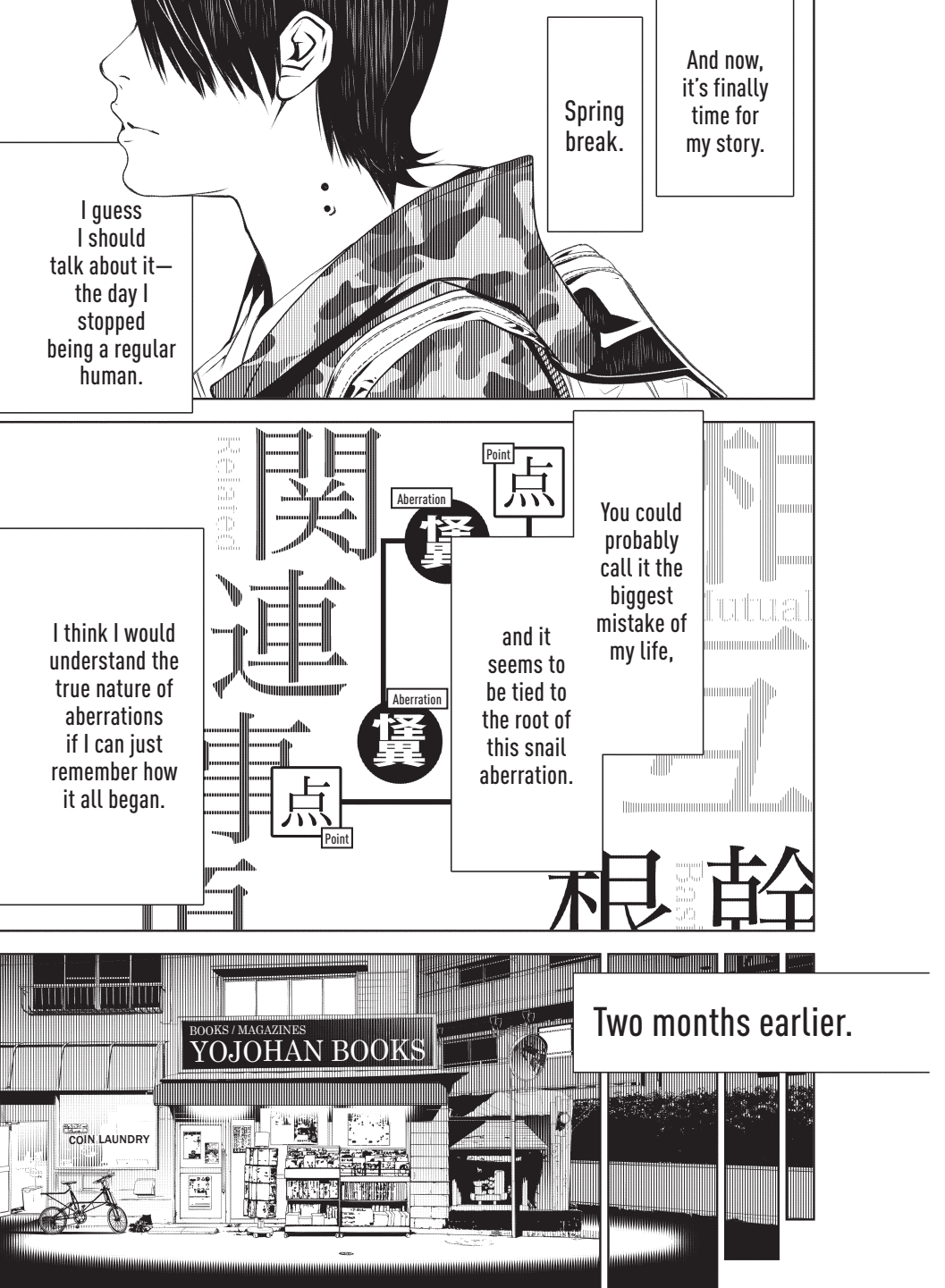
...Her aura is so intimidating that this girl is willing to use the high schooler who just tossed her through the air as a wall to avoid her...?
it looks like she hates me.
I mean,
That's Senjo-gahara for ya...
She thinks I'm in the way... that I need to get lost...
I know what she's thinking.
But, um...
MISTER ARYA-RYAGI?
IT'S ARARAGI!
Sorry, slip of the tongue.

Well, she's right.
I am
a lost snail.

You always mess up, Araragi.
Haha!


You're always wrong, Araragi.

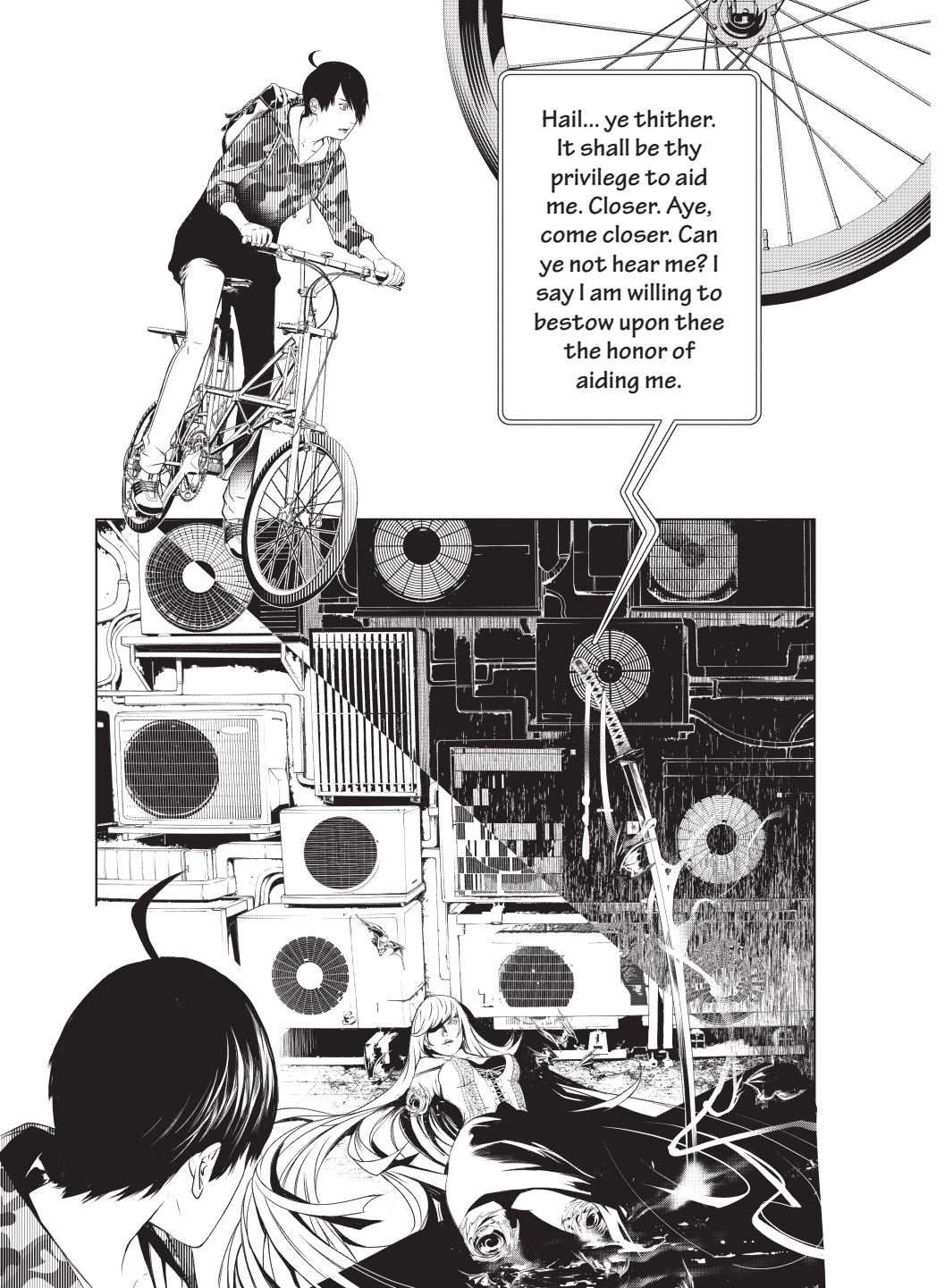
I mean, I am a failure, after all.
Yeah... I'm used to that by now.


And now, it's finally time for my story.
Spring break.
I guess I should talk about it—the day I stopped being a regular human.
You could probably call it the biggest mistake of my life,
and it seems to be tied to the root of this snail aberration.
Point
点
Aberration
怪異
Aberration
怪異
点
Point
I think I would understand the true nature of aberrations if I can just remember how it all began.
Two months earlier.
BOOKS / MAGAZINES
YOJOHAN BOOKS
COIN LAUNDRY

BEEP
Free wrapping for presents.
New Research: Chemistry I/II Suzuko Kindo
SUPER HUGE
That comes out to 2,500 ...
ZENTAI MAX
Vol.83
A second skin encasing your body!
An amateur girl's tale of awakening: Haruko's story
An amateur girl's extreme sexuality: Yuki's story
The beautiful sister: Ami Namu
So good you nearly
SUFFOCATE
This curvy girl's sexy body
A collection of full-body tights
THWAP
SWOOP
This too.
What ...?!
5,000?!
That comes out to 5,250 yen.
SPEEDBOY
How's that for perfect timing?
Even though I'm clearly a minor— he can't tell me no.

Time to rush home ...
Okay!! Quick!
SKREEK
Wait! Hold on!
Fine... Even if I didn't have time to make a careful choice, a book that nearly costs 3,000 yen
surely won't betray my expectations!!
What if I get hit by a car? ...What if I spend my last moments holding onto a dirty magazine...
Koyomi... Why, Koyomi?
Why did you have to die in such a predictable way...?!
It's times like these that demand the most prudence.
I need to ride safely!
My first priority is to return to my room unharmed!!

Ye.


Hail... ye thither. It shall be thy privilege to aid me. Closer. Aye, come closer. Can ye not hear me? I say I am willing to bestow upon thee the honor of aiding me.

The iron-blooded, hot-blooded, yet cold-blooded vampire.
My name is Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade.
Give me thine blood.
Now hurry ...!

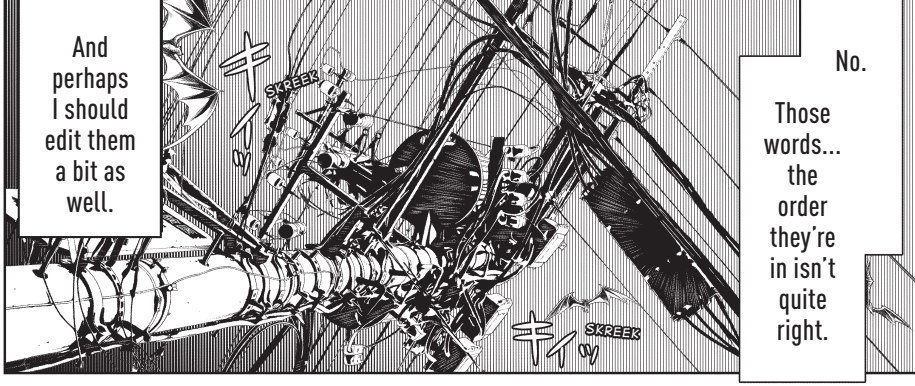
This isn't funny !!
I didn't see anything! This has nothing to do with me!!
That's right... I have a dirty magazine in my backpack right now...!
One that costs a whole 3,000 yen!! Right now, my only mission in life is to get this book to my bed without incident!!
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
死にたくない
I don't want to die
死にたくない
ごめんなさい
I'm sorry
助けて
Save me
助けて
お願い
Please
No I can't die
死ぬのは嫌だ
死ぬのは嫌だ
No 嫌
誰か Someone 誰か
誰か 誰か

Help!
Help me!
I don't want to die!
I don't want to die!!
No! No!!
I don't want to die!!
SLURCH
SLURCH
SLURCH
SLURCH

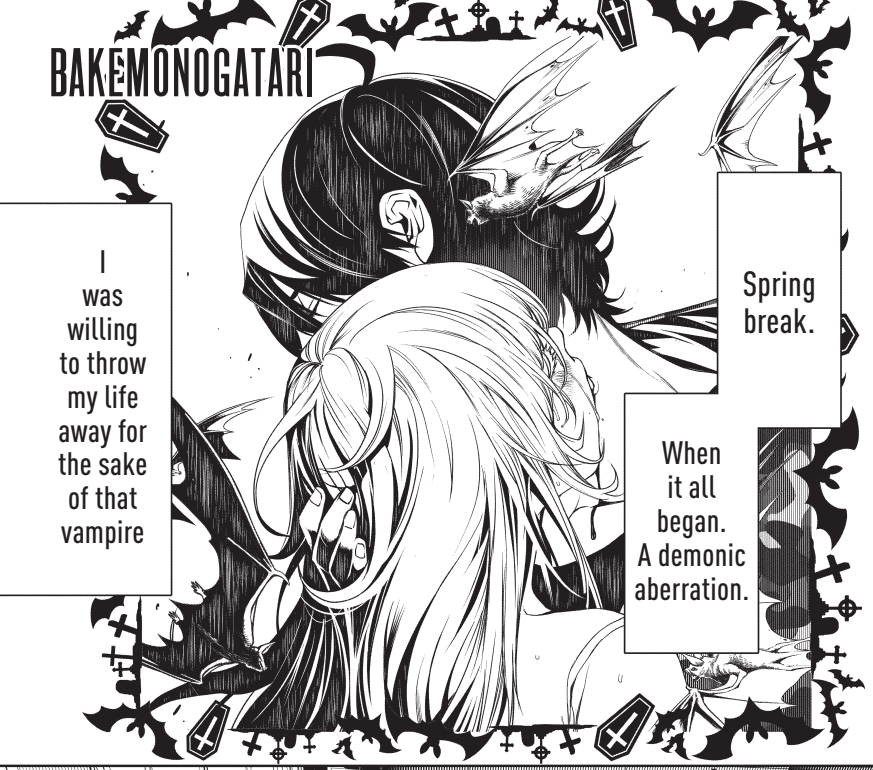
No!
No, no!!
I don't want to fade away...
Save me... Please... Plea...se.
Some-one, anyone, please...!
I'm sorry!
I'm sorry!!
I don't want to...
...die...
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH

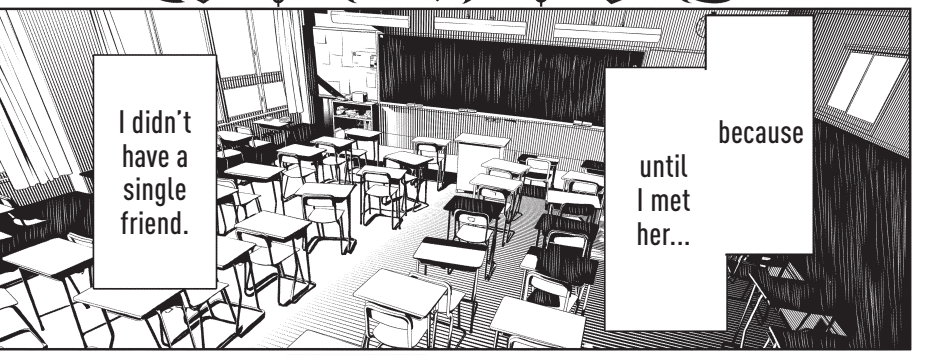
God... What am I doing? She's a demon.
She just wants to save herself... by preying on me.
SKREEK
HERE. DRINK UP.
CRASHER

Don't leave a drop behind. Wring me dry.
Go ahead. Suck my blood.
But I instinctively knew
that she was someone worth far more than my life.
I knew that this nobly-named vampire
shouldn't be allowed to die or fade away, let alone apologize or beg for her life.
Be-witched, I offered the vampire my neck and suc-cumbed to being her thrall.



She succumbed and sucked the blood from my neck.





It's because I went out of my way *not* to make them.

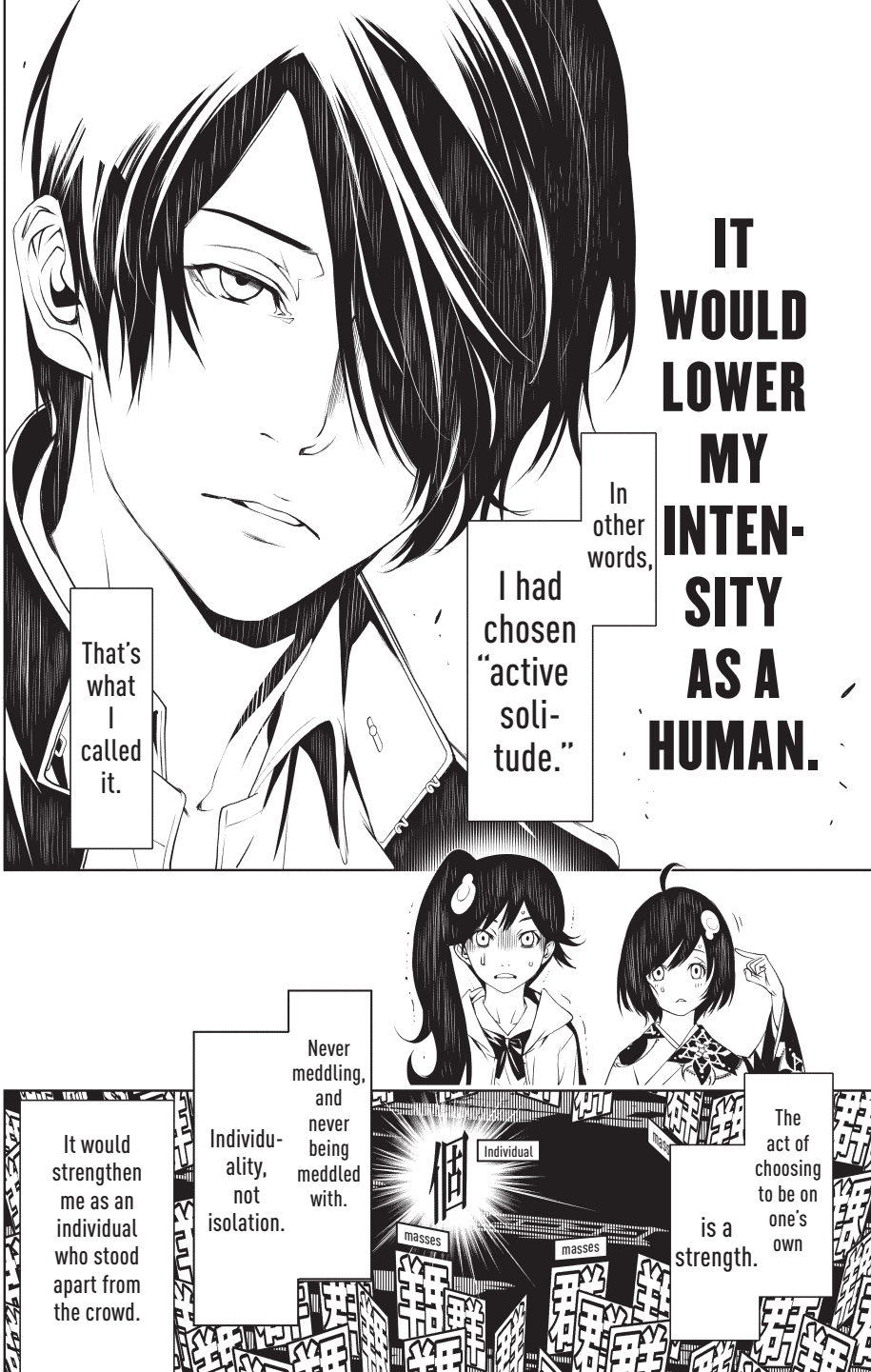
And I stress this...

Not because I couldn't make them.

I cannot make friends.

I don't make friends.

BEEP

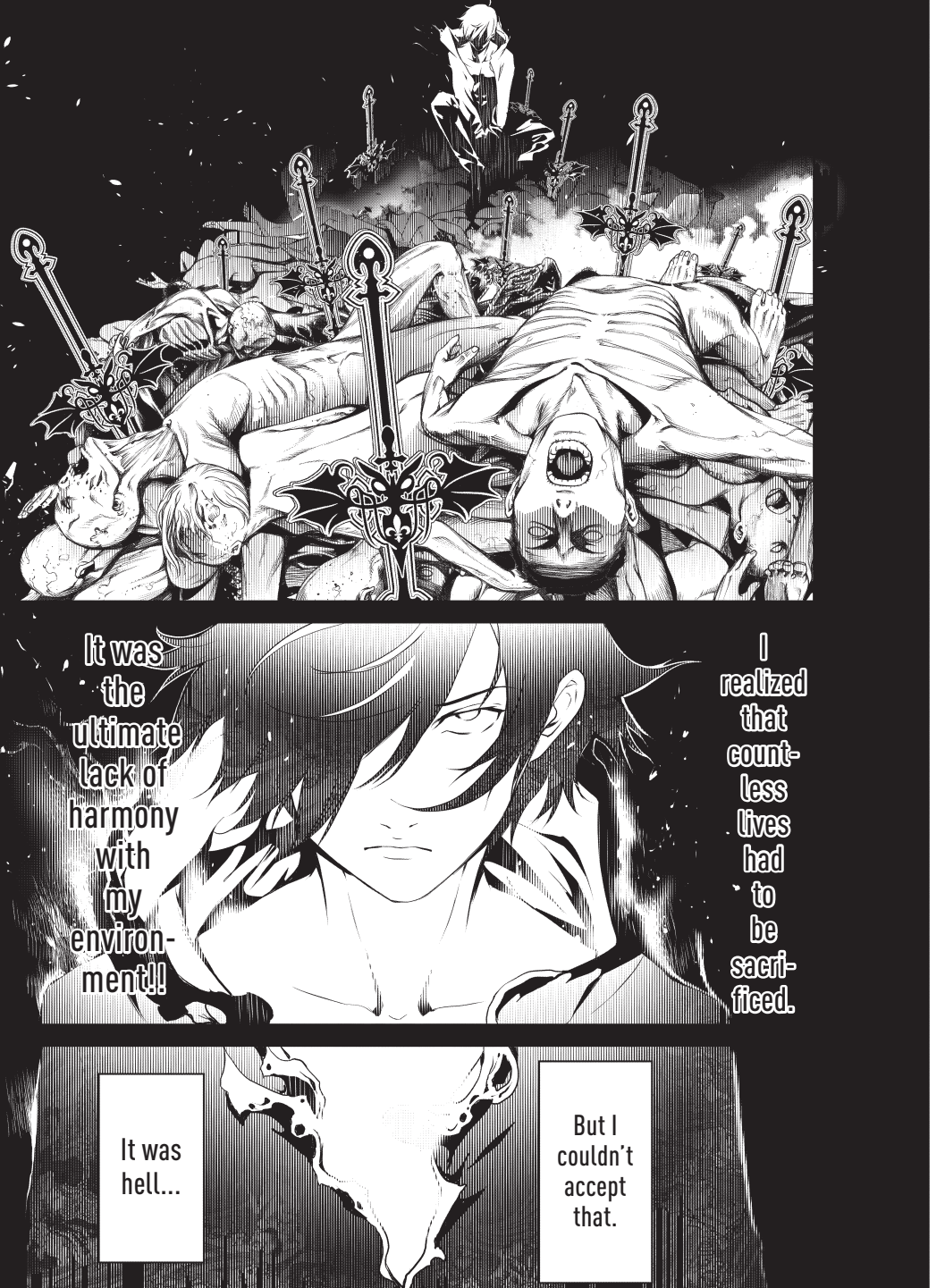

IT WOULD LOWER MY INTEN-SITY AS A HUMAN.
In other words,
I had chosen "active soli-tude."
That's what I called it.
The act of choosing to be on one's own
is a strength.
個
Individual
masses
masses
Never meddling, and never being meddled with.
Individu-ality, not isolation.
It would strengthen me as an individual who stood apart from the crowd.

Of course, Hanekawa summed up my position as if she saw through the whole thing.
Machismo for nerds,
huh?
Harmonizing with one's environment
while maintaining a strong sense of self.
That balance is important. It's ideal.
Harmony
But *passive* solitude is different—it creates tension in the environment, only bringing isolation and obstruction.
It's what happens when humans can't peacefully coexist with their surroundings.
It's just hell, plain and simple.

KLANG

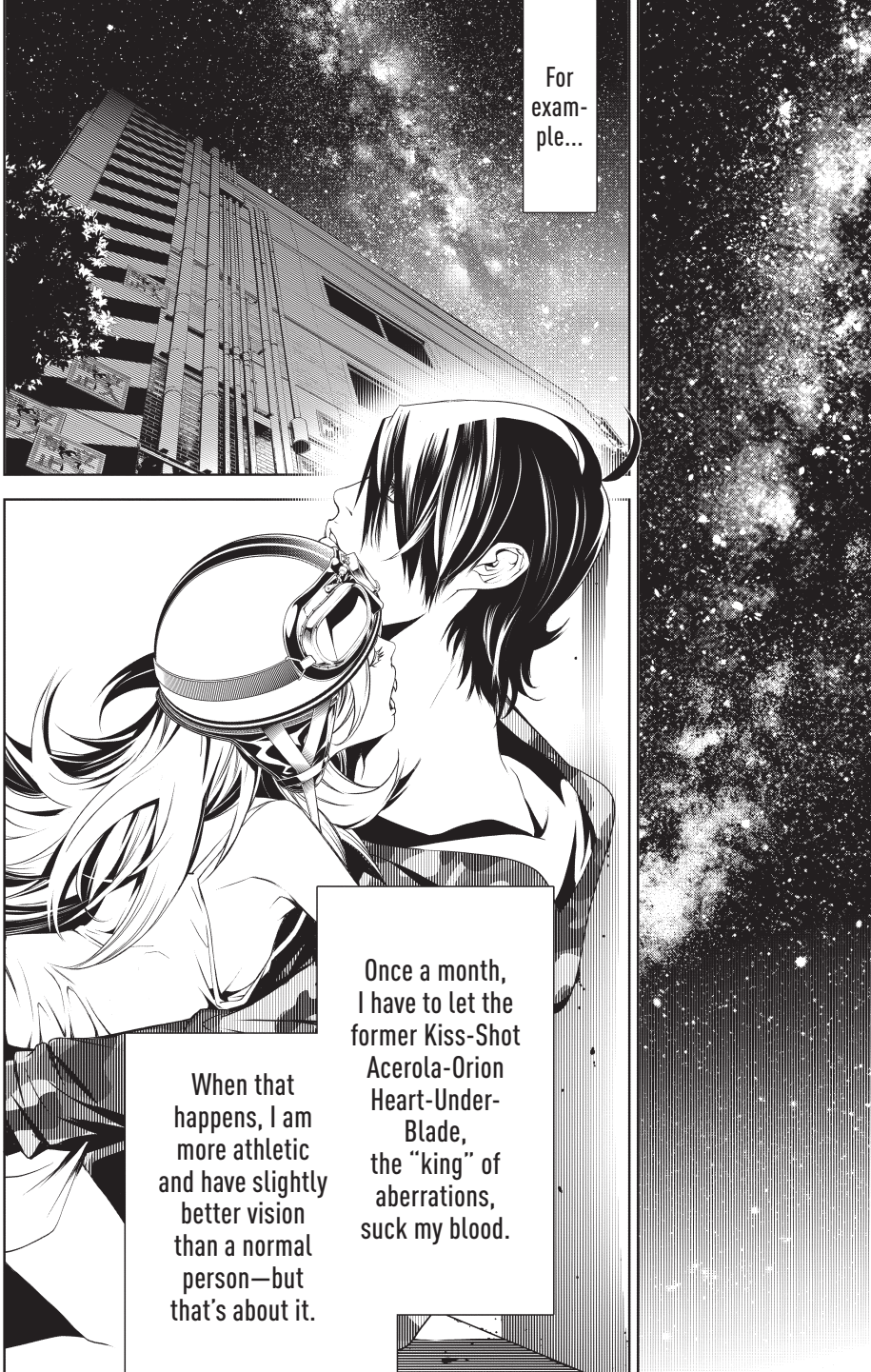
That's the exact hell I lived in
two weeks into my spring break as a vampire.

My explosive physical abilities and countless superpowers came at too high a cost.
Crosses scared me, garlic weakened me, holy water made me melt...
and people tried to kill me every day.
But worst of all,
for me to live...
yes, *just to maintain a single life like mine...*


It was the ultimate lack of harmony with my environment!!
I realized that countless lives had to be sacrificed.
It was hell...
But I couldn't accept that.

You're so spirited.
Something good happen today?
And the man who dragged me out of those blood-stained depths and rescued me
was just some dude passing by. A roaming wreck of an adult known as Mèmè Oshino.
Oshino somehow handled it all.
Not just the vampire, but a lot of other stuff, too.

That'll be five million yen.
I might be able to tell you what happened some other time—but for now, I'll just give you the highlights.
Anyway, thanks to Oshino,
I became human again.
I was left with a few mild vampiric abilities —
such as the ability to recover faster than the average human—but that's about it.
All the things that were left unresolved
became my own personal problems.
But it's nothing that serious. Just stuff I have to deal with for the rest of my life.


For example...
Once a month, I have to let the former Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade, the "king" of aberrations, suck my blood.
When that happens, I am more athletic and have slightly better vision than a normal person—but that's about it.

I can't help but think...

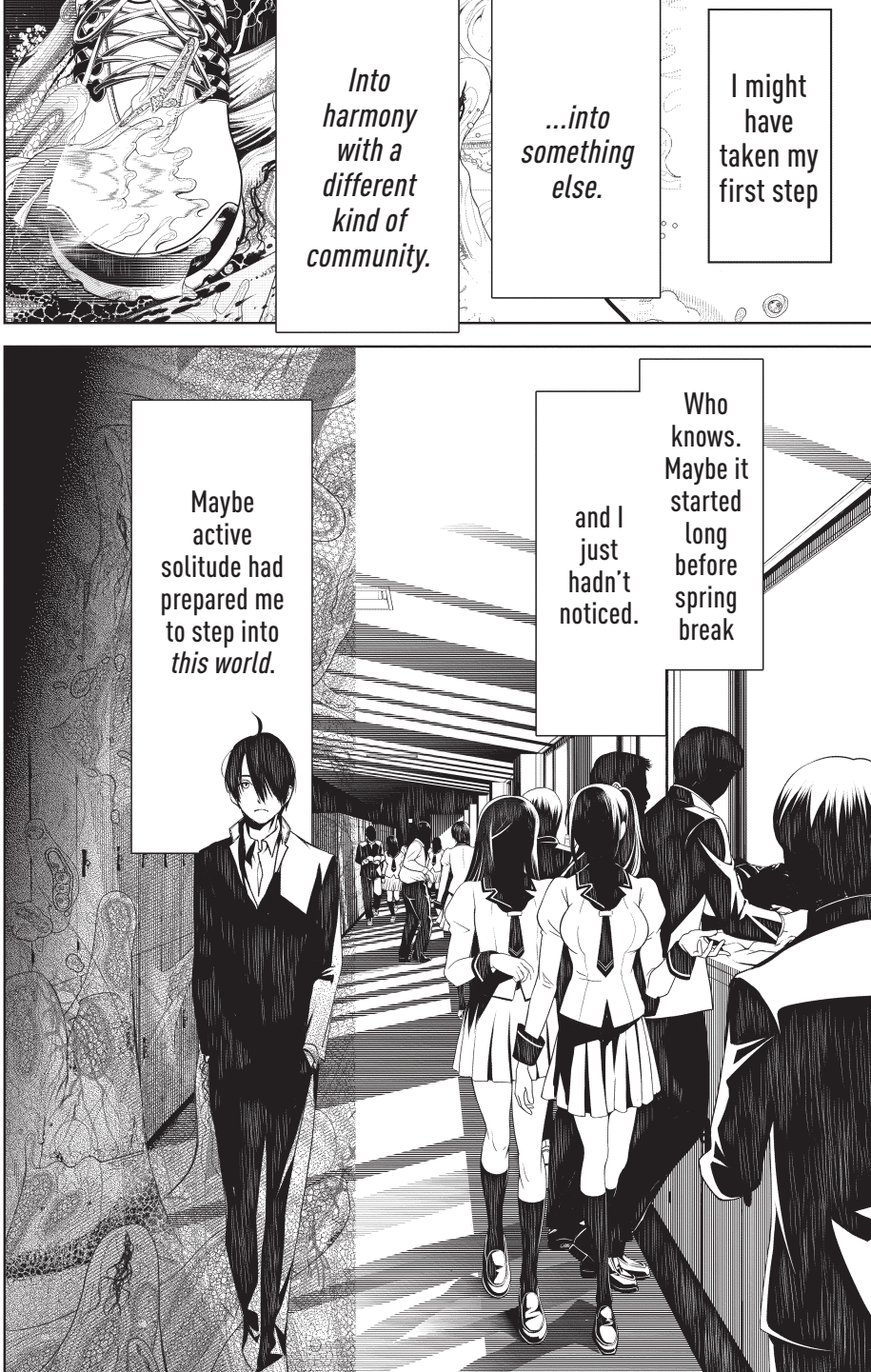
Whenever I recall what happened,

Whether I knew it or not,

I had distanced myself from my class and other communities.

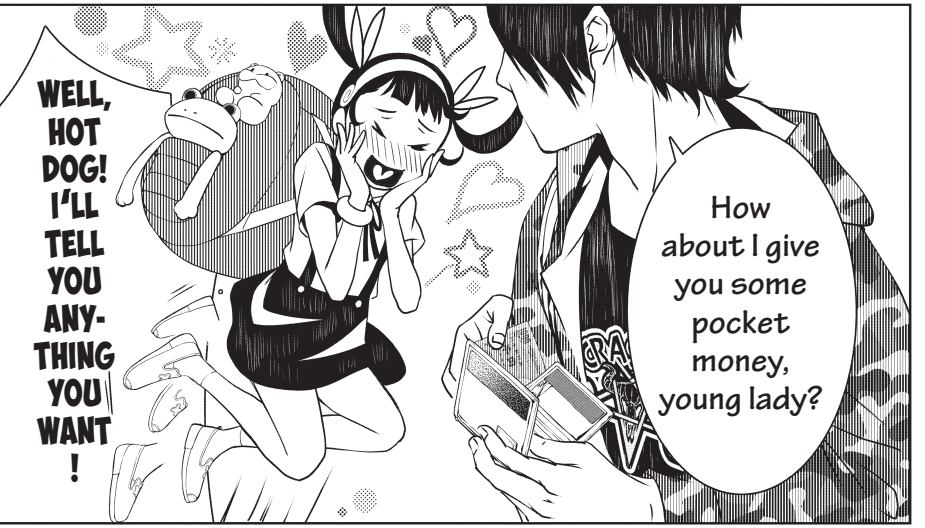
And in doing

that one act ...


Into harmony with a different kind of community.
...into something else.
I might have taken my first step
Maybe active solitude had prepared me to step into *this world*.
and I just hadn't noticed.
Who knows. Maybe it started long before spring break

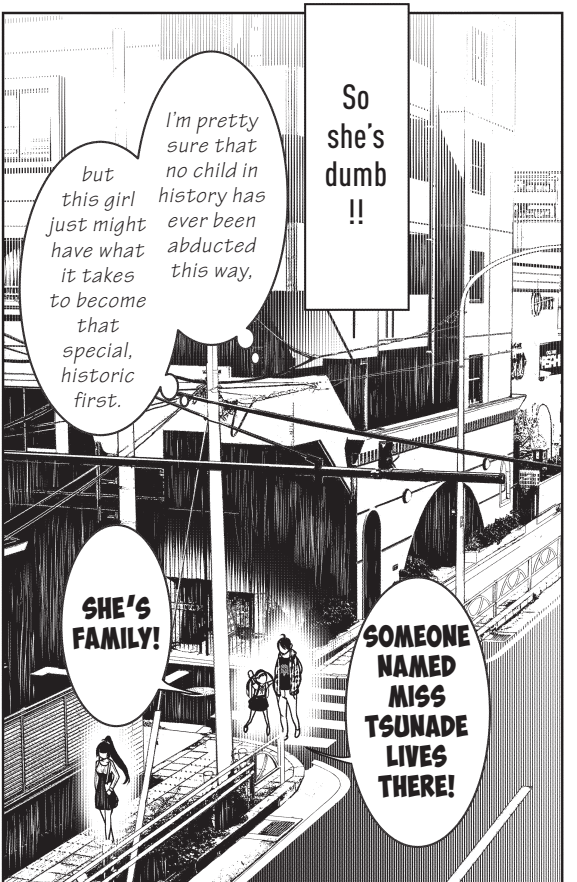
KIRIN
What's at this address?
Hey, Hachikuji.
Hmph.
I'm not telling! I exercise my right to remain silent!
No talk, no help.
I never asked for your help! I can get there myself!
...What idiot ever called children "innocent"...?

People who can't trust themselves like you, Mister Araragi, can ask all you want, but I don't need it! This stuff is like daily insurance to me!
Aren't you lost?
Listen, Hachikuji, you should really ask for help when you need it.
I was just like her until recently, so I had no right to act superior.
Then I guess your policy covers it.
Oh?
I didn't need anyone's help.
I thought I could do everything on my own.
But of course, I couldn't.
YOU DON'T SOUND VERY SINCERE!
Please, bestow upon me the secret of what lies in that location.
Very well then, young lady. I have a request.

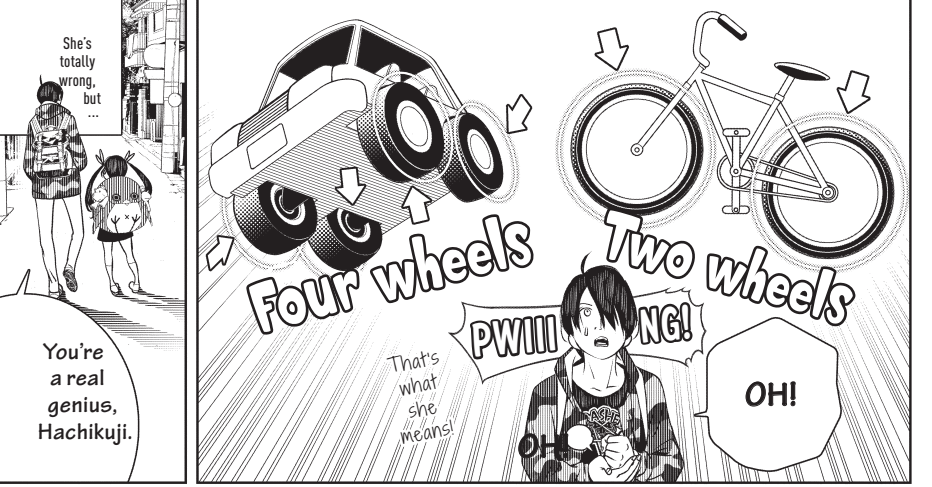

How about I give you some pocket money, young lady?
WELL, HOT DOG! I'LL TELL YOU ANY-THING YOU WANT!

I see. So you went to go play at a relative's house...
You could've stayed home on Mother's Day like a good daughter, you know.

ARARAGI'S ISSUES
Let's put this aside!


So she's dumb !!
but this girl just might have what it takes to become that special, historic first.
I'm pretty sure that no child in history has ever been abducted this way.
SHE'S FAMILY!
SOMEONE NAMED MISS TSUNADE LIVES THERE!

ARARAGI'S ISSUES
Here we go!
THUD
ドスッ
ARARAGI'S ISSUES
Sitting vacantly on a park bench on a Sunday morning doesn't seem like something a respectable person would do.
If anything, Mister Araragi, I'd like to ask what you were doing in such a place.
...
I was just doing some bike touring...
Bike touring...
Oh, but I was on a bicycle, not a motorcycle.
I'd rather drive a car, but I don't have my license...
HOW COOL!!
Huh?
Is that so.
But of course, in that case you'd be fouring.
?
Hm...? Why would touring in a car be called...

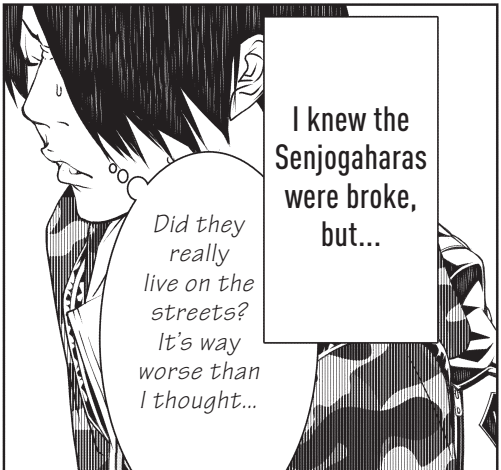

She's totally wrong, but ...
You're a real genius, Hachikuji.
Four wheels
Two wheels
That's what she means!
PWIII
NG!
OH!

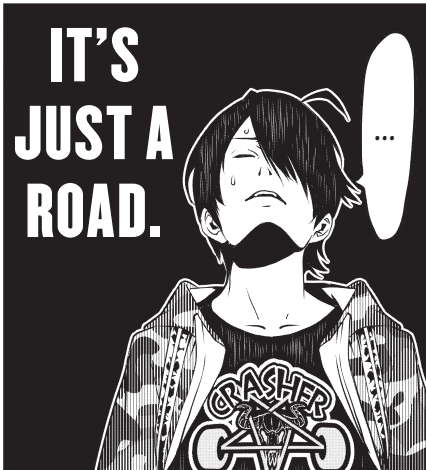
You mean it?

HEE-HEE
So glad I'm not a pedo!!
Yikes. That would suck.
If I were a pedophile, I probably would've stepped into an awful situation by now.
Ah yes, a child's smile really is a pure and wonderful thing.
She seems to be lowering her guard.
HUNH ?
Araragi.
We're here.

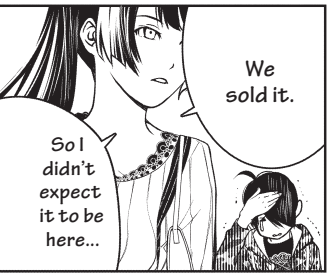
SSF
Araragi.
There.
No.
Not the address you told me just now.
Doesn't look like it.
We're... here?

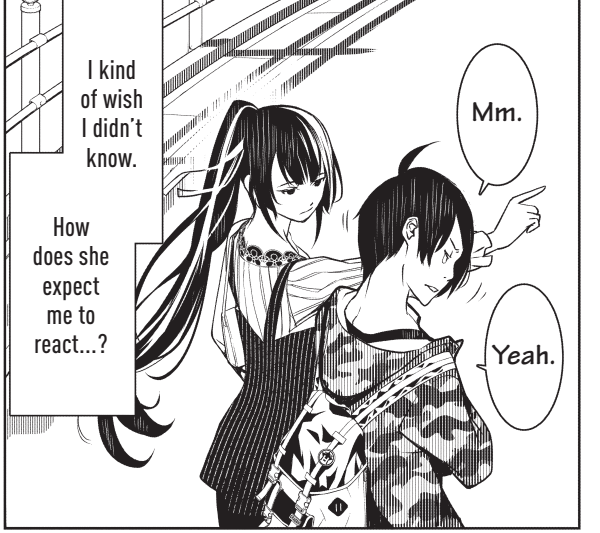
I used to live around here
until about a year ago.

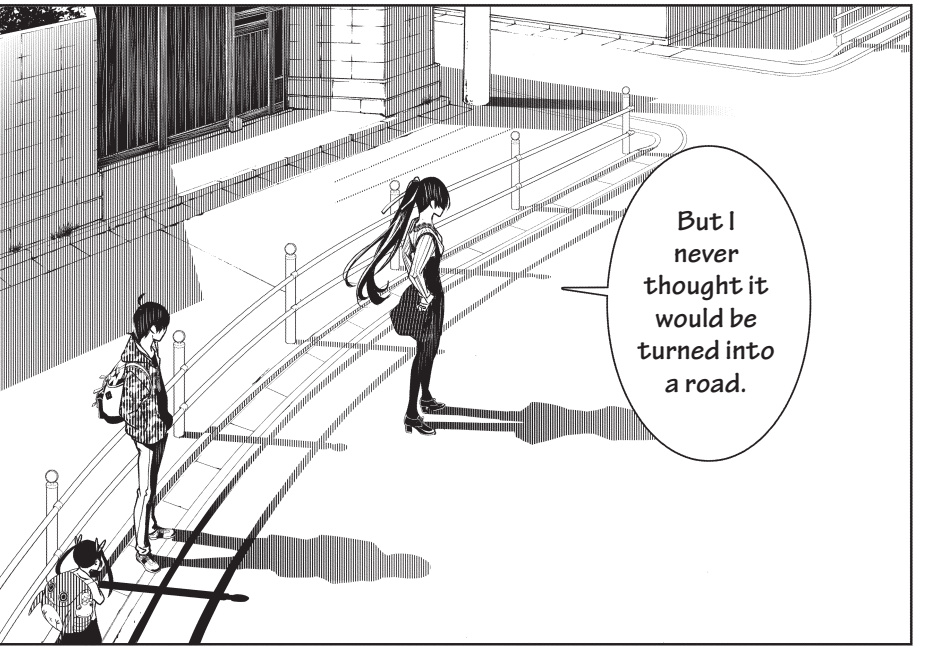

I knew the Senjogaharas were broke, but...
Did they really live on the streets? It's way worse than I thought...


IT'S JUST A ROAD.
...
CRASHER

?!
THWAP

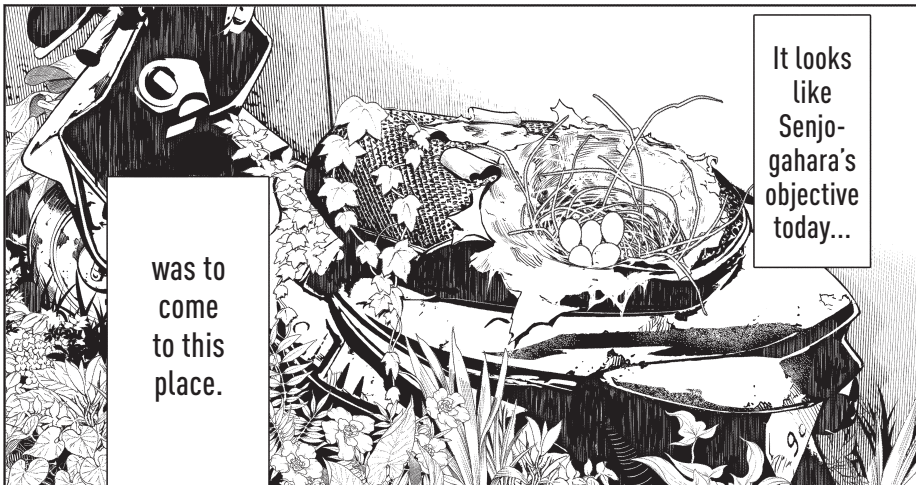

We sold it.
So I didn't expect it to be here...

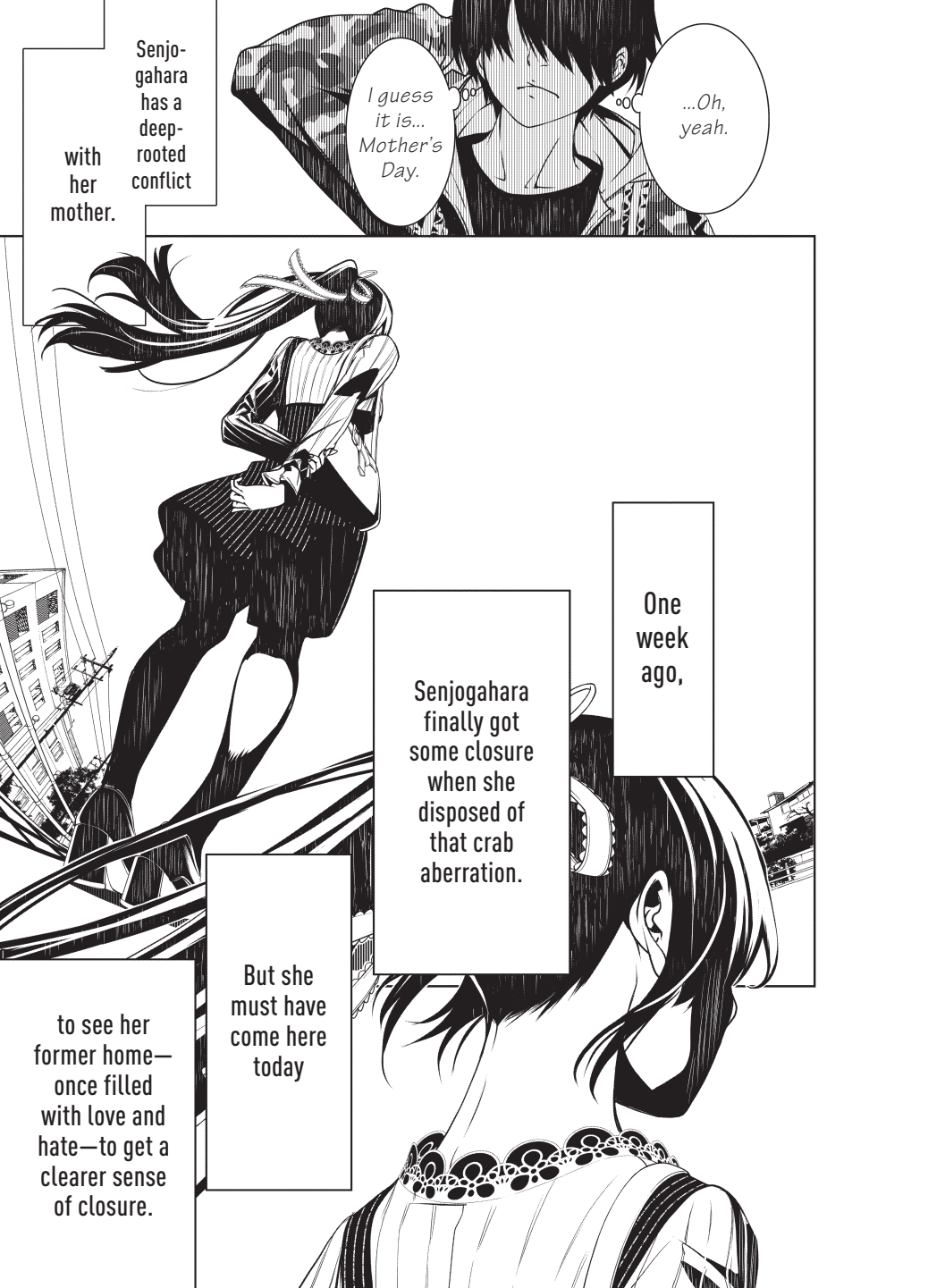

I kind of wish I didn't know.
How does she expect me to react...?
Mm.
Yeah.


But I never thought it would be turned into a road.

I have to admit, I feel pretty blue.

So, we came here for nothing.
Bummer.

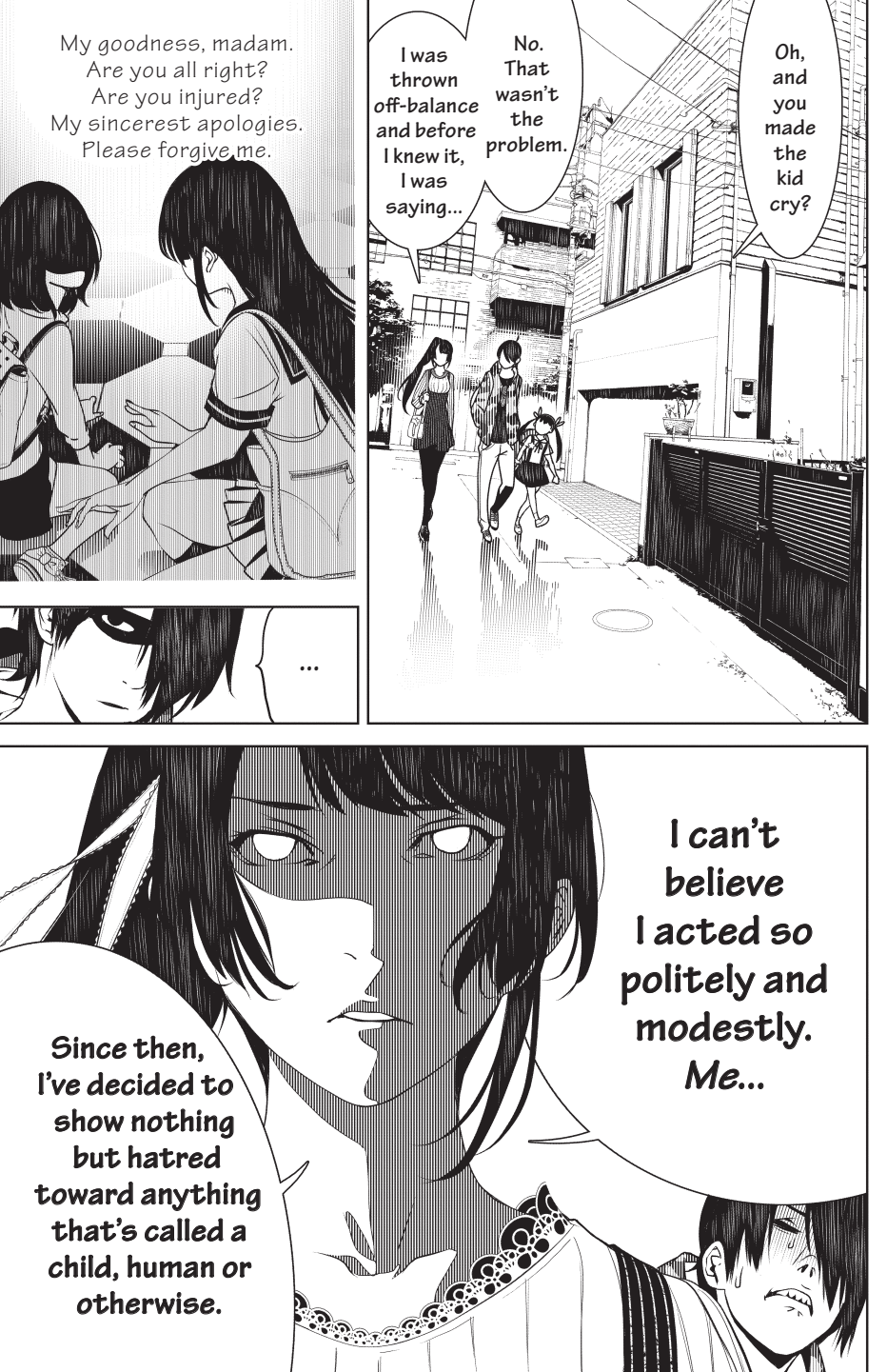



Senjo-
gahara
has a
deep-
rooted
conflict
with
her
mother.
I guess it is... Mother's Day.
...Oh, yeah.
One week ago,
Senjogahara finally got some closure when she disposed of that crab aberration.
But she must have come here today
to see her former home—once filled with love and hate—to get a clearer sense of closure.

Heh.
That's right. Just because she got her weight back
doesn't mean she solved the problems that made her *that way*.
What about the root... of the problem ...?
Yeah, now there's no place her feelings can go...
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
GSSH
Sorry for wasting your time on something so pointless. Let's go.
It's fine, Araragi. I'm the only one it needs to bother.

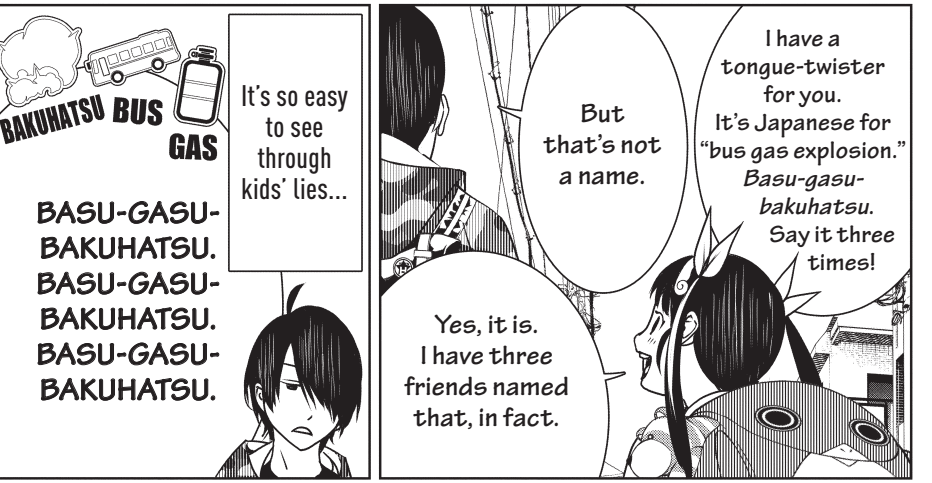
Hey!
Watch out!
For what?
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
THIP
BOING
Hey, Senjo-gahara.
Do you... not like kids?
She's in a terrible mood!
Grr...

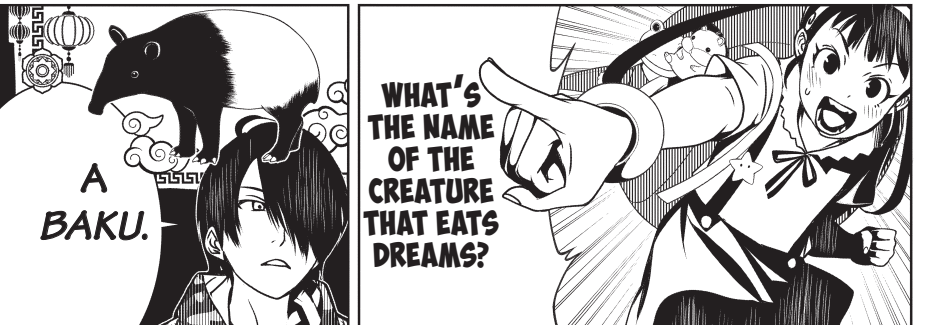
No.
I hate them.
I wish they'd die, every last one of them.
THWACK
Sorry!
EEK!
I could totally see her doing something like that...
...Right...
In middle school, I was shopping in a department store when I bumped into a little kid.
I have no idea how to treat them.


My goodness, madam.
Are you all right?
Are you injured?
My sincerest apologies.
Please forgive me.
...
I was thrown off-balance and before I knew it, I was saying...
No. That wasn't the problem.
Oh, and you made the kid cry?
I can't believe I acted so politely and modestly. Me...
Since then, I've decided to show nothing but hatred toward anything that's called a child, human or otherwise.

By the way, Araragi.
The address on that note should be around here.
Oh, we're here?
Great! Hear that, Mayoi?
...
Sorry, my mistake.
It looks like we've gone too far in the wrong direction.
Let's go back.
Huh? Wait... Didn't we just pass this place?
If you'd like to criticize me, go ahead.
I'm sorry.
Why am I apologizing?

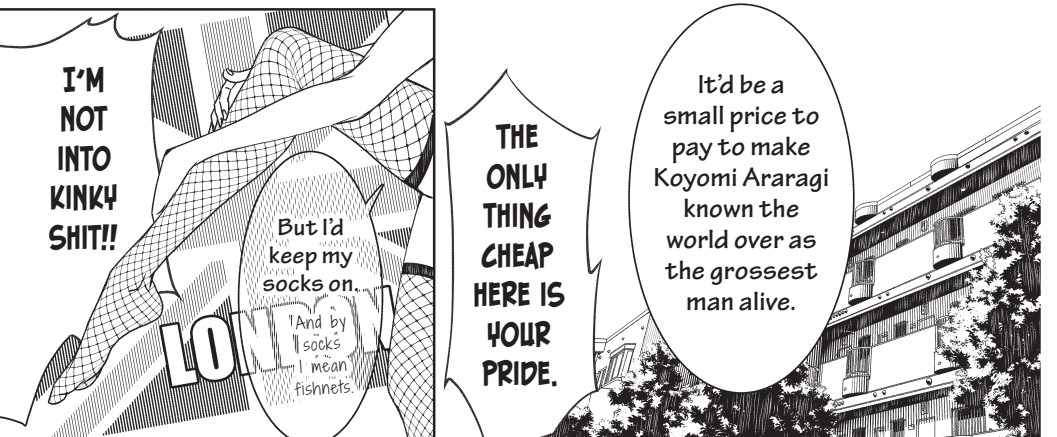
I'm sorry. Another slip of the tongue.
That's one too many ras.
Everyone misspeaks from time to time. Or are you saying you've never misspoken in your life, Mister Araragi?
Don't mispronounce people's names.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, MISTER ARARARAGI...


BAKUHATSU BUS GAS
It's so easy to see through kids' lies...
BASU-GASU-BAKUHATSU. BASU-GASU-BAKUHATSU. BASU-GASU-BAKUHATSU.
But that's not a name.
I have a tongue-twister for you. It's Japanese for "bus gas explosion." Basu-gasu-bakuhatsu. Say it three times!
Yes, it is. I have three friends named that, in fact.


A BAKU.
WHAT'S THE NAME OF THE CREATURE THAT EATS DREAMS?

Wrong. It's "humans."
HEE HEE HEE !
Wow, that was really dang good.
WELL AREN'T YOU CLEVER, YOU GENIUS!!
Heh.
Ara-ragi.
We've gone too far again. Let's turn back.
Huh ?!
Again ?!

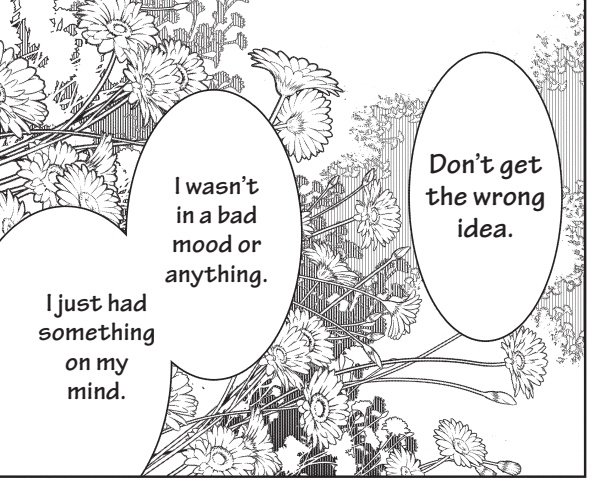
I can tell by your face that you're itching to complain.
Fine then, let me strip down on all fours and apologize to you.
ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME OUT TO BE THE MOST DISGUSTING MAN ON EARTH?!
As if I'd let you do that in a residential area!

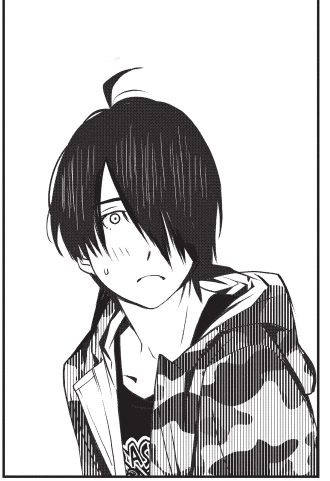

It'd be a small price to pay to make Koyomi Araragi known the world over as the grossest man alive.
THE ONLY THING CHEAP HERE IS YOUR PRIDE.
I'M NOT INTO KINKY SHIT!!
But I'd keep my socks on.
And by socks I mean fishnets.

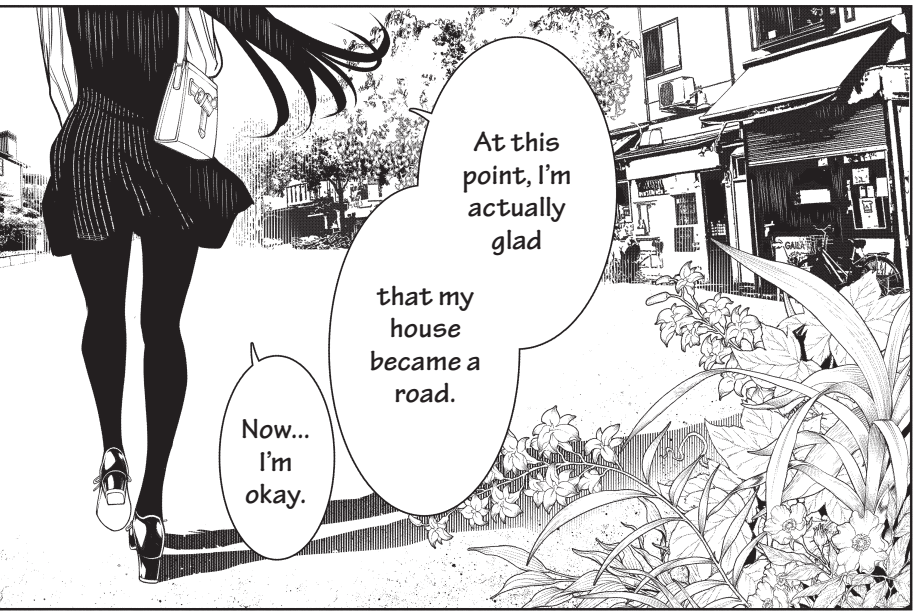
What's wrong ?!
What ?!
So forcing me to get down naked on all fours to apologize isn't enough! Do you want to take a permanent marker and write dirty things on every inch of my body?!
Pervert / Hella / Nips / Nympho / Shameless / !!
Total masochist / Come look / I want you to / Full-body tights / Thick / PIG
Dogs or cats? / Open for business / Ahh / Yeah / Perv / Sex / Please / Use me / Tsundere / Heartthrob
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO DRAG OUT THIS BIT?!

I'm glad.
Still...
The area has changed completely,
but I'm still glad I came.
I just bought these clothes yesterday.
I wanted you to be the very first person to see me in them,
so I'll content myself with that.
Huh ?!

I can wear whatever I want now that I have my weight back.
O... Oh.
So... You wanted to show them to me first?
I guess I feel very fortunate... or very honored.
I didn't say I wanted to show them to you,
Ara-ragi.
I just wanted you to see them.
There's a world of difference between the two.

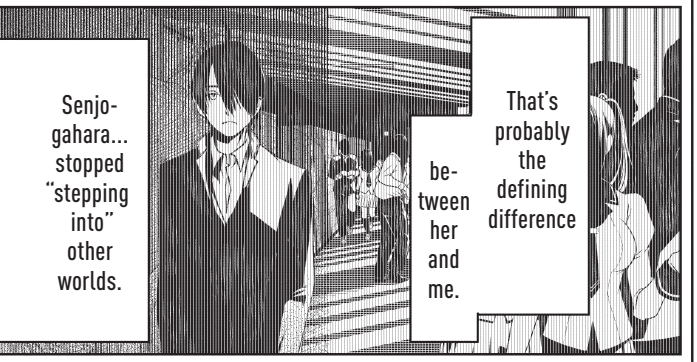






Thanks to you, Araragi,

I can move on.



she's made it back.

Not just physically, but emotionally ...

"She's incredible," I thought.

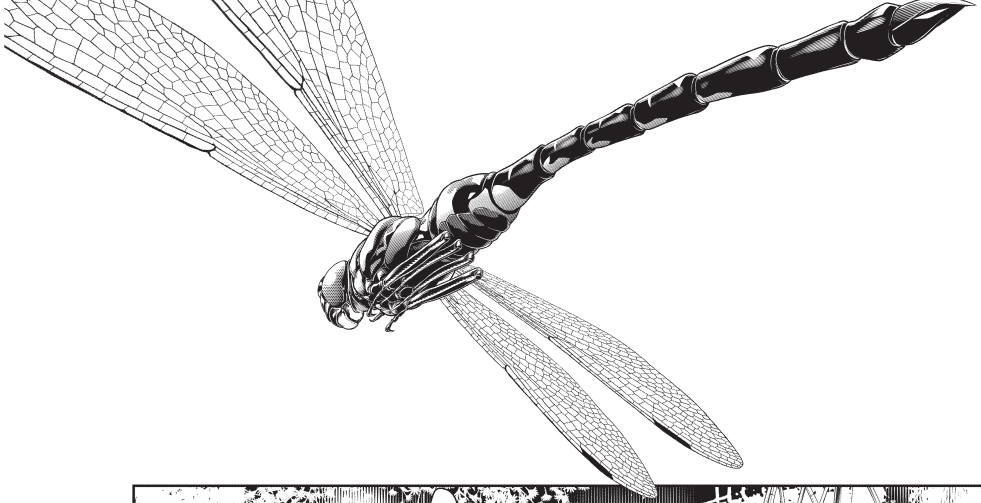
"I'm so jealous," I thought.

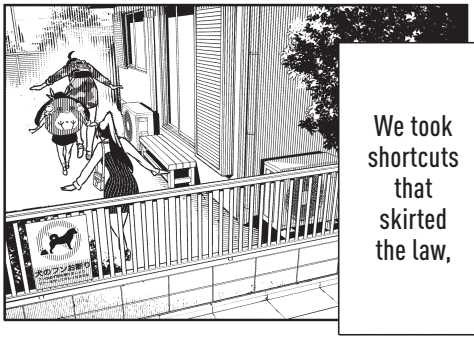
but I just can't find it...
I shouldn't be getting lost,
It's strange ...
Are we really not there yet ?
NADETSU TOWN AREA MAP

It's probably impossible.
No matter how many times I try, I can't get there.
I can never arrive.

I'll never reach...
my mother.
FWOOOSH
Her mother?

Be-
cause
I'm
a
lost
snail.

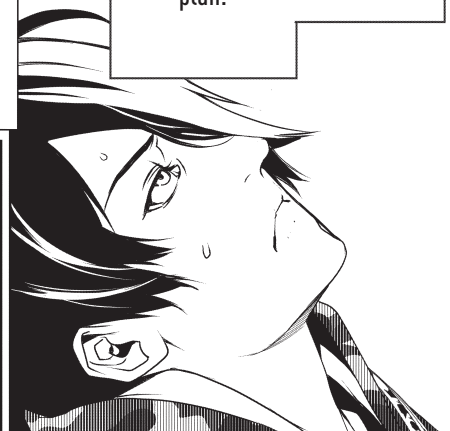


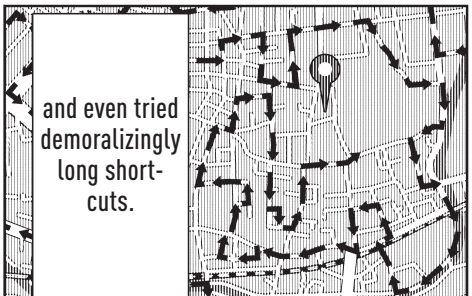


We've used up five continues by now.

We checked every home, one by one— a brute-force plan.

We took shortcuts that skirted the law,



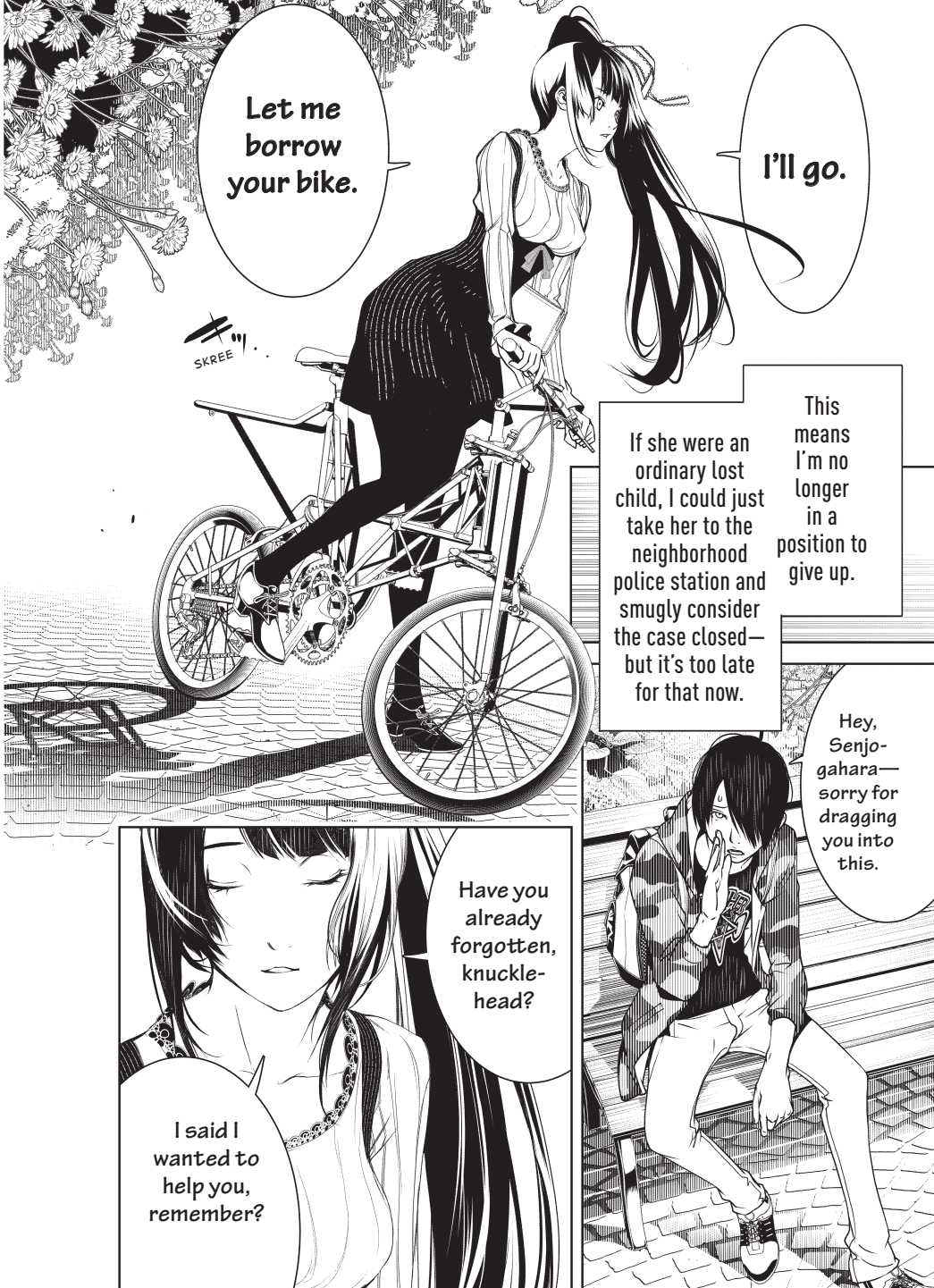


and even tried demoralizingly long short-cuts.

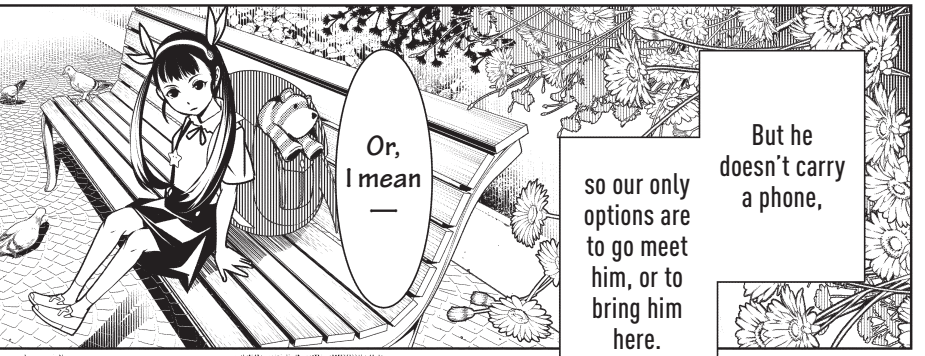
But all we got out of it was a stunning amount of fruitless labor.

CURRENT LOCATION
NAOETSU 3-5-
NO SIGNAL
EXITING SEARCH
My phone's GPS still has no signal?

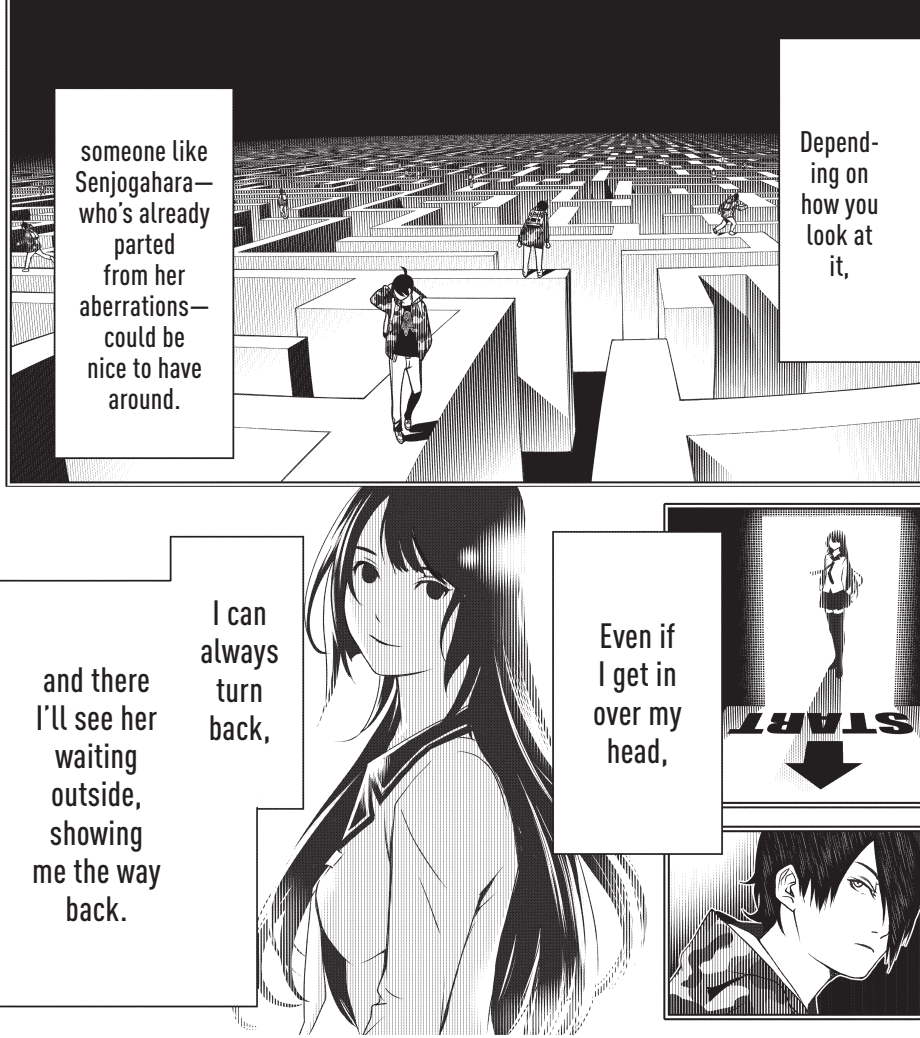
aberration
怪異
Now, I've got no choice but to admit it.
We've got an
on our hands.


Let me borrow your bike.
I'll go.
SKREE
This means I'm no longer in a position to give up.
If she were an ordinary lost child, I could just take her to the neighborhood police station and smugly consider the case closed—but it's too late for that now.
Hey, Senjo-gahara—sorry for dragging you into this.
Have you already forgotten, knuckle-head?
I said I wanted to help you, remember?

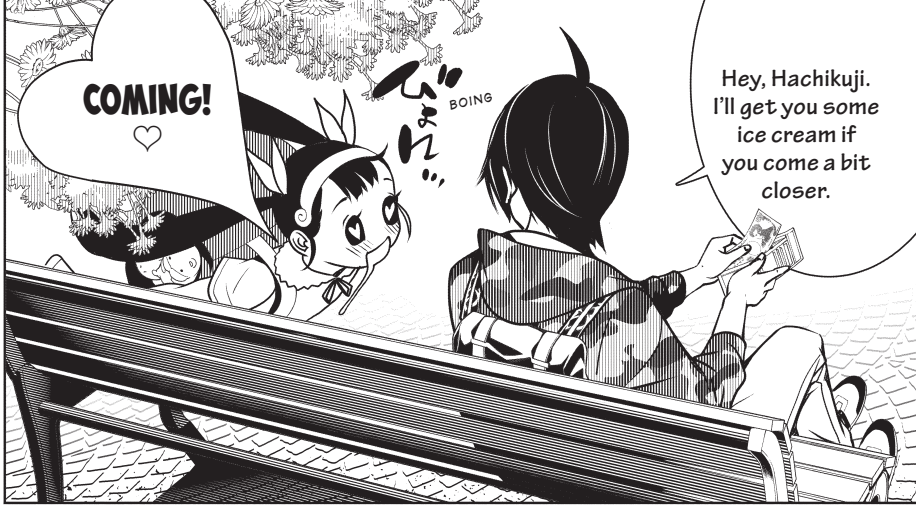
He's our last hope.
At this point, the only person we can rely on is him...
Mèmè Oshino.

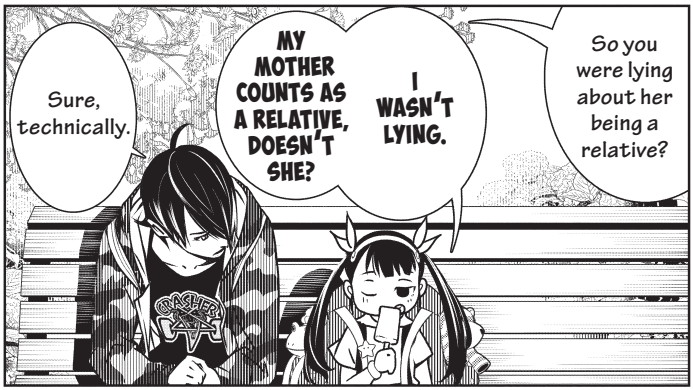

Or, I mean —
so our only options are to go meet him, or to bring him here.
But he doesn't carry a phone,

Don't leave me alone with her.
"I wouldn't know what to do with her."
She left with those parting words.

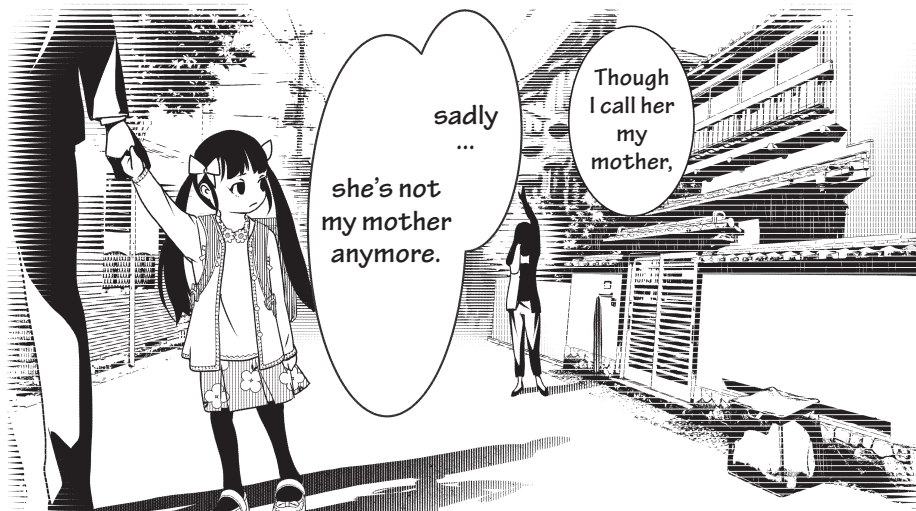

someone like Senjogahara—who's already parted from her aberrations—could be nice to have around.
Depending on how you look at it,
and there I'll see her waiting outside, showing me the way back.
I can always turn back,
Even if I get in over my head,
START
Do you think... you could tell me a little more about yourself?
All right. In that case, I'll delve as deeply into Hachikuji's situation as I can.
I mentioned this earlier, Hachikuji,
but we're dealing with a similar situation.

...Exercising her right to remain silent, I see.
Hello-oooo ...?
Hey, so... a little earlier you were, uh...
Was telling her about us the wrong move?
And here I thought she was opening up...
Weren't you trying to visit your relative, Miss Tsunade?
you said you couldn't meet your mom—right?
What did you mean by that?
...


COMING!
♡
BOING
Hey, Hachikuji. I'll get you some ice cream if you come a bit closer.

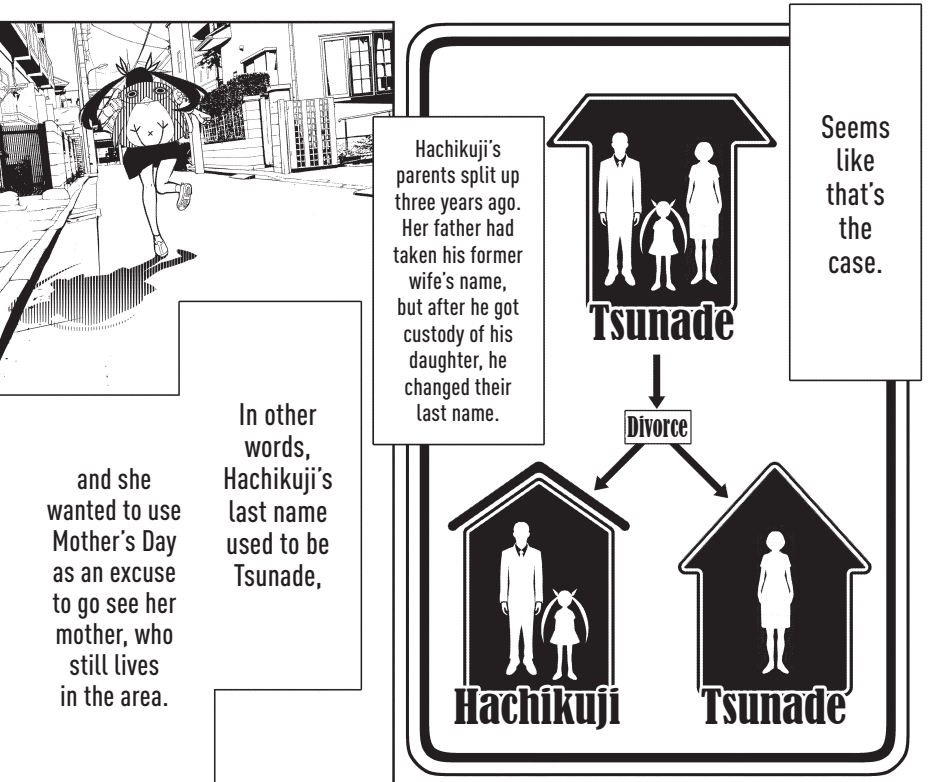

Sure, technically.
MY MOTHER COUNTS AS A RELATIVE, DOESN'T SHE?
I WASN'T LYING.
So you were lying about her being a relative?

...
What an easy girl to control...


sadly ...
she's not my mother anymore.
Though I call her my mother,

...
Oh...

Divorce.


Hachikuji's parents split up three years ago. Her father had taken his former wife's name, but after he got custody of his daughter, he changed their last name.
Tsunade
Divorce
Hachikuji
Tsunade
Seems like that's the case.
In other words, Hachikuji's last name used to be Tsunade,
and she wanted to use Mother's Day as an excuse to go see her mother, who still lives in the area.

This doesn't have anything to do with today being Mother's Day.
No, it's fine.
I'm sorry for acting holier-than-thou and for saying all that crap about respecting your parents...
Ah, jeez ...
Her home is a place I'd visit any time, if I could.
But... I never get there.

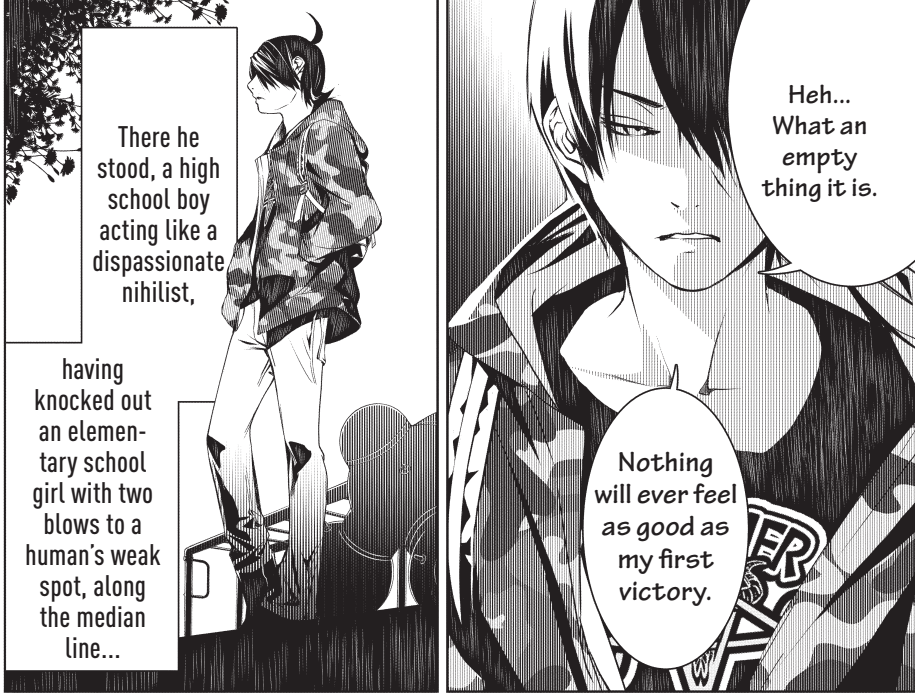
and tried to go to her mother's, it seems.
In hopes of seeing her mother,
she put on that big backpack
But
she ended up meeting a snail aberration instead... I think.
...
You... must've had it rough, too...
PAT
PAT
FSST
CHOMP!
KREAK

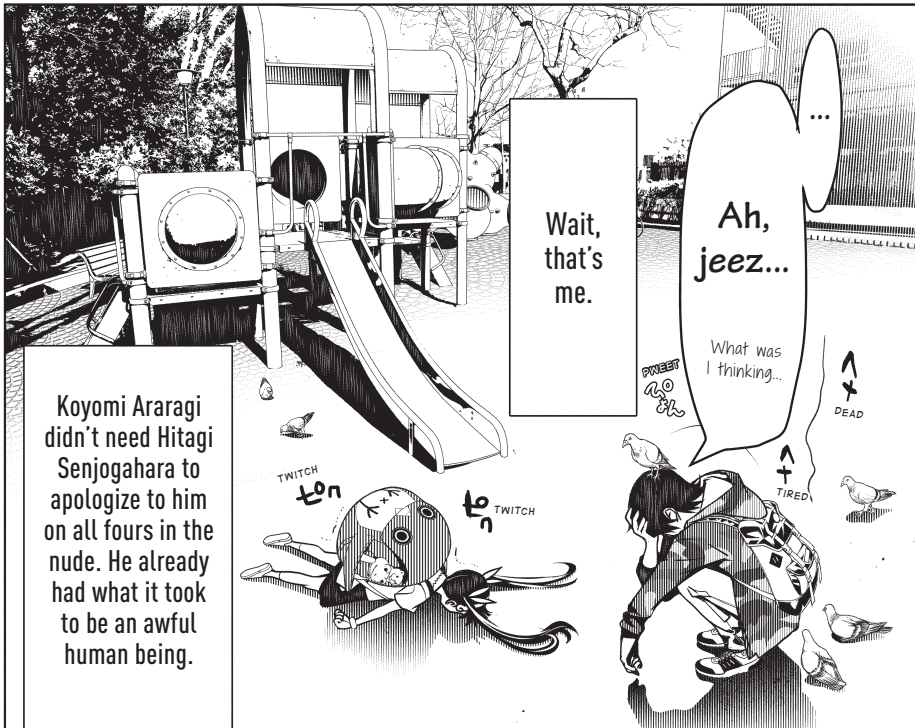
KRNCH
...
?
Ha
—
Hachi...!
Gah
—
?!
Ow...
Owwww!!
SNAP

SNAP
KRK
KRAK
KRK
KRK
BSSHT
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
GRIT
GRIT
GRIT
GRIND
Aaaaa aaagh!!
Wha ...!
What's going on?! What'd I do?
Gah !
Wait!
She's not playing around!!
T-... T-Teeth... into... my bones!
SNAP SNAP
B- Breaking... grinding...!
Does this mean what I think it does...? Have I unwittingly triggered some sort of event without even knowing it?
And now a battle has begun?!

WHAKK
Fsh !
WHAM
GWOOSH

BLEH
WHAM
THUD
THUD
BAM
TWITCH
TWITCH
GLUICKLE
GLUICKLE

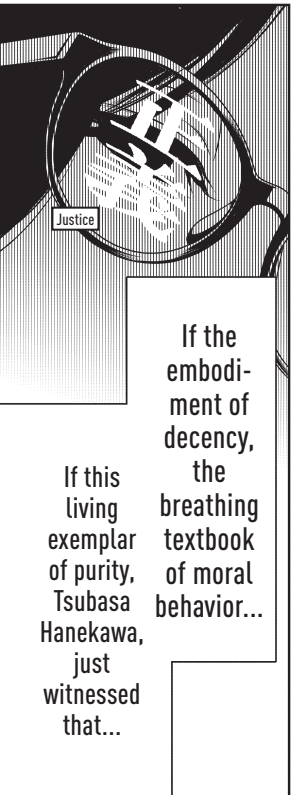

There he stood, a high school boy acting like a dispassionate nihilist,
having knocked out an elementary school girl with two blows to a human's weak spot, along the median line...
Heh... What an empty thing it is.
Nothing will ever feel as good as my first victory.


Koyomi Araragi didn't need Hitagi Senjogahara to apologize to him on all fours in the nude. He already had what it took to be an awful human being.
Wait, that's me.
...
Ah, jeez...
What was I thinking...
TWITCH
TWITCH
PWEET
DEAD
TIRED

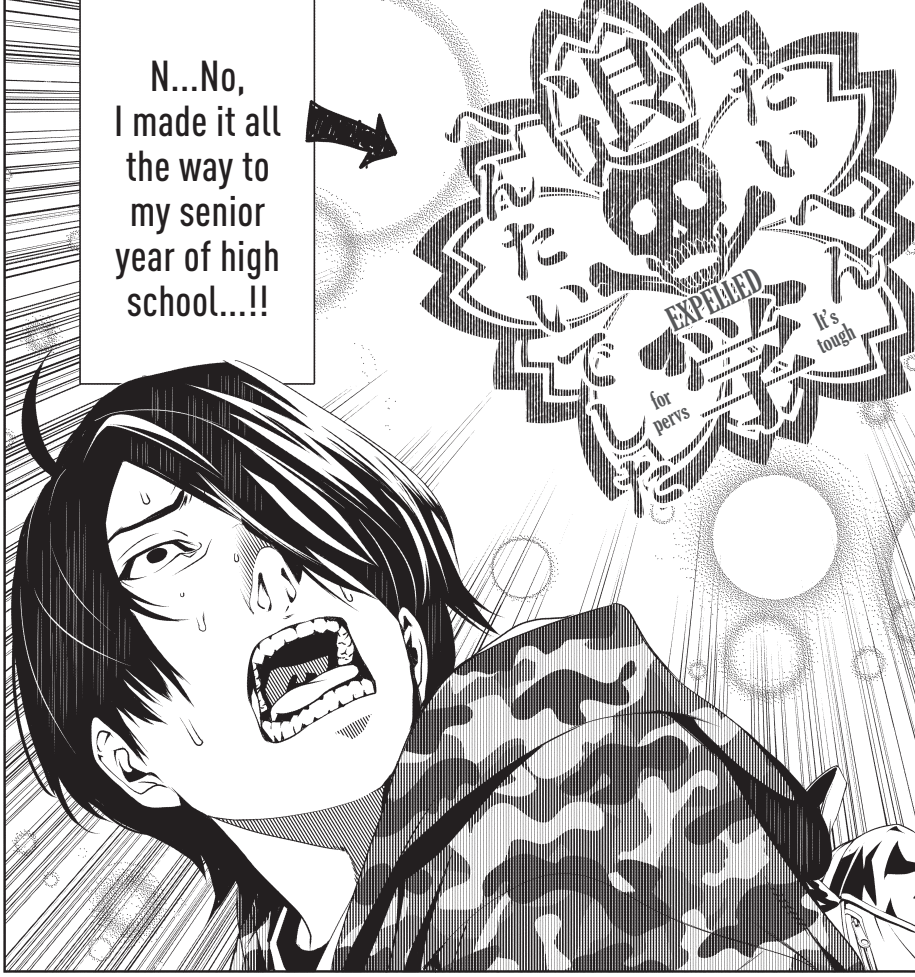
Gah ...
I can't believe it...
I can see my damn bones...
SGRSH
SGRSH
VZZT
FSSHH
Hey.
You okay, Hachikuji ?
PLOOP
...
FLASH
Her breasts are surprisingly plump for an elementary schooler...
But it's fine 'cause I'm not a pedophile!! I'm just looking after her—

Ooh, what a scary look on your face!
JIGGLE
JUST ASSAULTED A CHILD
UNCONSCIOUS AND VOMITING
Ha...
Hey!
Hane-kawa...!
THE CLASS PRESIDENT AND A SYMBOL OF ABSOLUTE JUSTICE
HUGE BOOBS

this is a huge prob-lem !!!
It's bad enough that Senjogahara saw this, but now in a different way,
no!
Oh...
Ha—
Hane-kawa...!

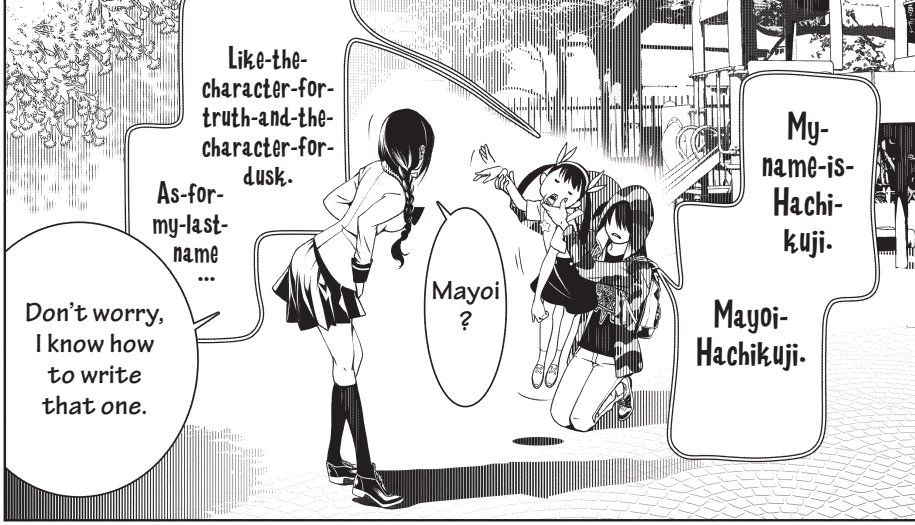

Justice
If this living exemplar of purity, Tsubasa Hanekawa, just witnessed that...
If the embodi-ment of decency, the breathing textbook of moral behavior...

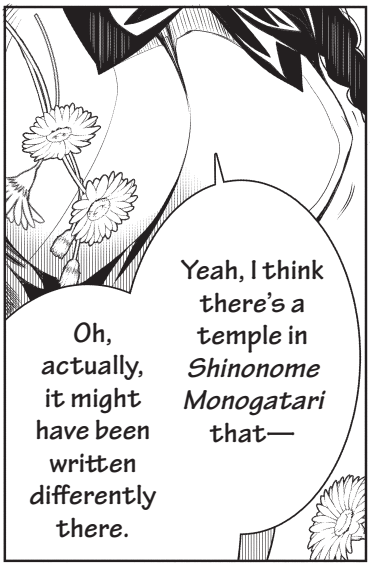
Heh heh, what're you doing here?


N...No, I made it all the way to my senior year of high school...!!
EXPELLED
It's tough for pervs

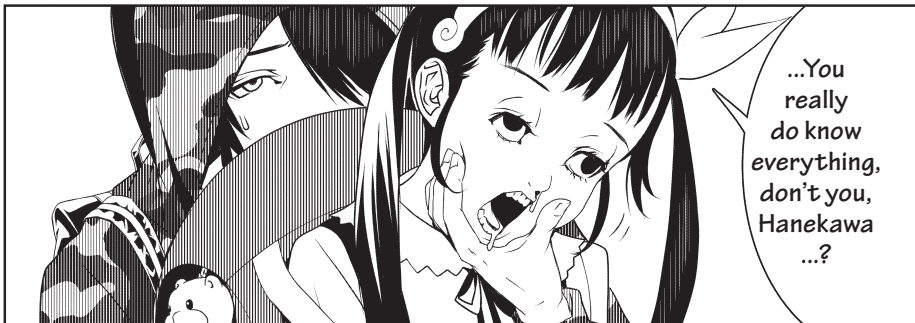
Just on my way back from the library.
I live around here.
W...
Well, what about you?

Sure...
Okay, good... I got her off-topic ...
It was closed. What kind of library is closed on a Sunday...?
It's frustrating how uncultured this neighborhood is.
Is that your little sister?
Who's the girl?
So?
WOBBLE
C'mon, Hachikuji.
WOBBLE
Oh, no. My little sisters are a little older.
Say hello to the nice lady.


My-name-is-Hachi-kuji.
Like-the-character-for-truth-and-the-character-for-dusk.
As-for-my-last-name ...
Mayoi ?
Mayoi-Hachikuji.
Don't worry, I know how to write that one.


Yeah, I think there's a temple in *Shinonome Monogatari* that—
Oh, actually, it might have been written differently there.

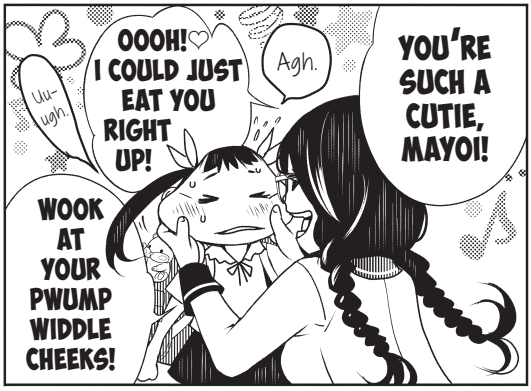
Hachikuji is a pretty common term in the Kansai region, anyway.
It's a very pedigreed, historic-sounding name.


...You really *do* know everything, don't you, Hanekawa ...?

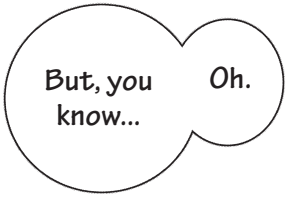
Ah!
Oh.
...Is that so?
Not every-thing.
I just know what I know.
BUSTED!
My name is Tsubasa Hanekawa, and I'm friends with your puppeteer over there!!
Oh, you're awake? Hello, Mayoi.
So she uses that on every-one?!
I don't like you.
...Please don't speak to me.

Hmmm? Did I do something to make you hate me?
You shouldn't say that to people you meet for the first time, Mayoi.
...
Ugh ...

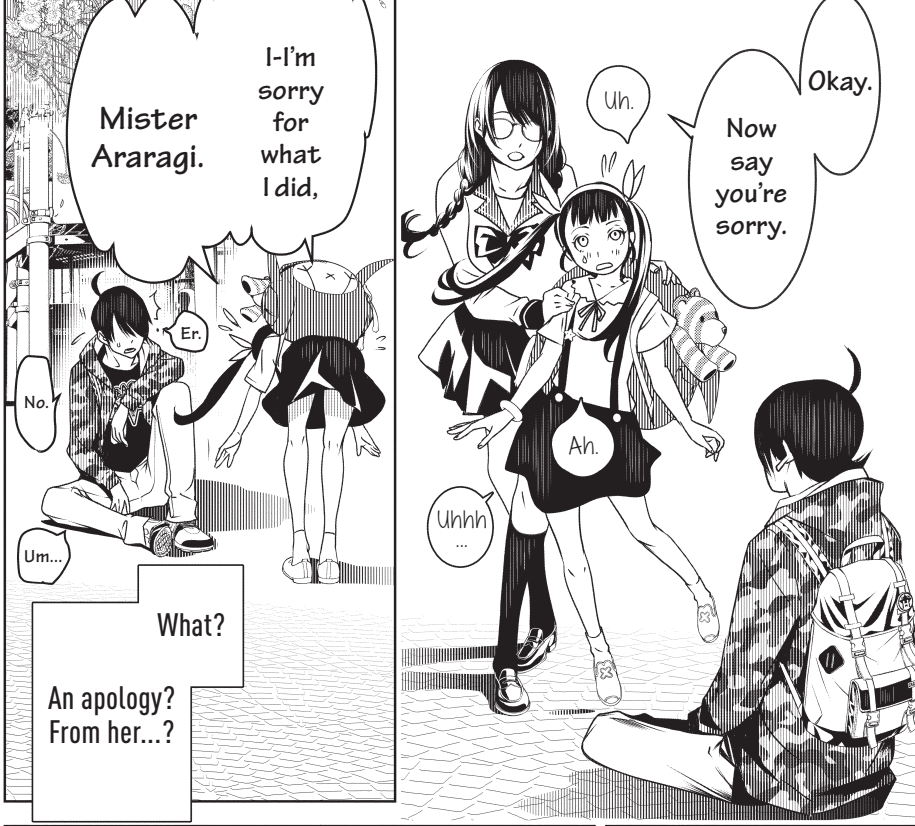
So you like kids, Hanekawa?
HMMM? IS THERE ANYONE WHO DOESN'T?!
RUB
RUB

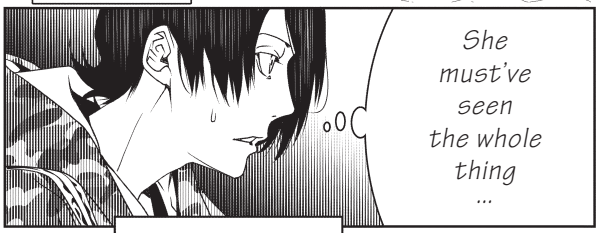

YOU'RE SUCH A CUTIE, MAYOI!
Agh.
OOOH! I COULD JUST EAT YOU RIGHT UP!
Uu-ugh.
WOOK AT YOUR PWUMP WIDDLE CHEEKS!

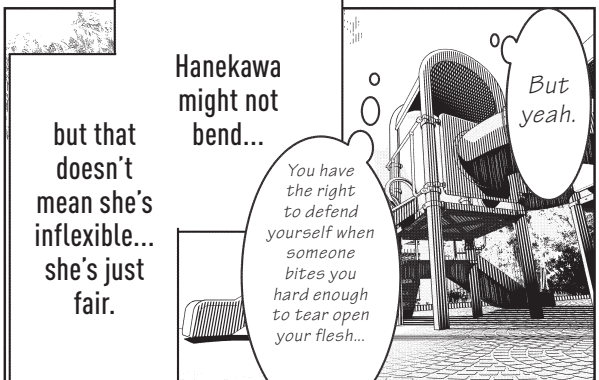
...
Hey... I'm not saying I don't...

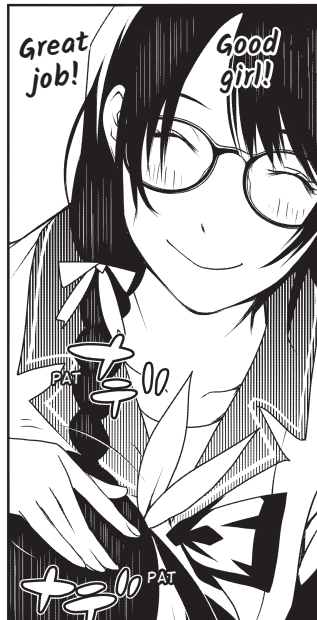

Oh.
But, you know...

THWAK
BAD GIRL!
You shouldn't bite his hand for no reason at all!!
He's going to be fine... but if he were a *normal* person, that would have really hurt!
Ah–
Ah.
Ah...


Mister Araragi.
I-I'm sorry for what I did,
Er.
No.
Um...
What?
An apology? From her...?
Uh.
Okay.
Now say you're sorry.
Ah.
Uhhh ...

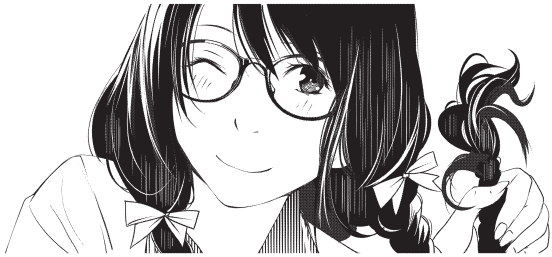

She must've seen the whole thing ...

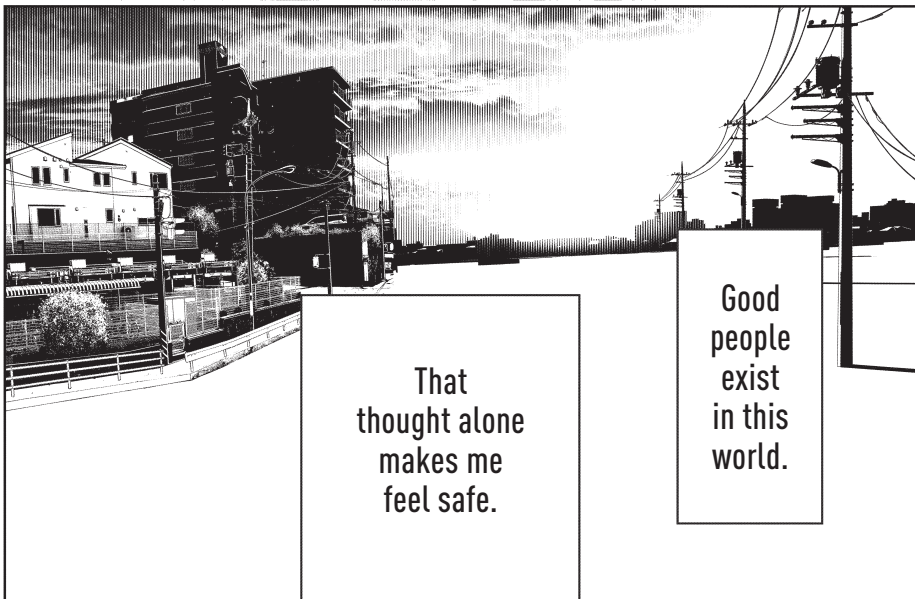

but that doesn't mean she's inflexible... she's just fair.
Hanekawa might not bend...
You have the right to defend yourself when someone bites you hard enough to tear open your flesh...
But yeah.

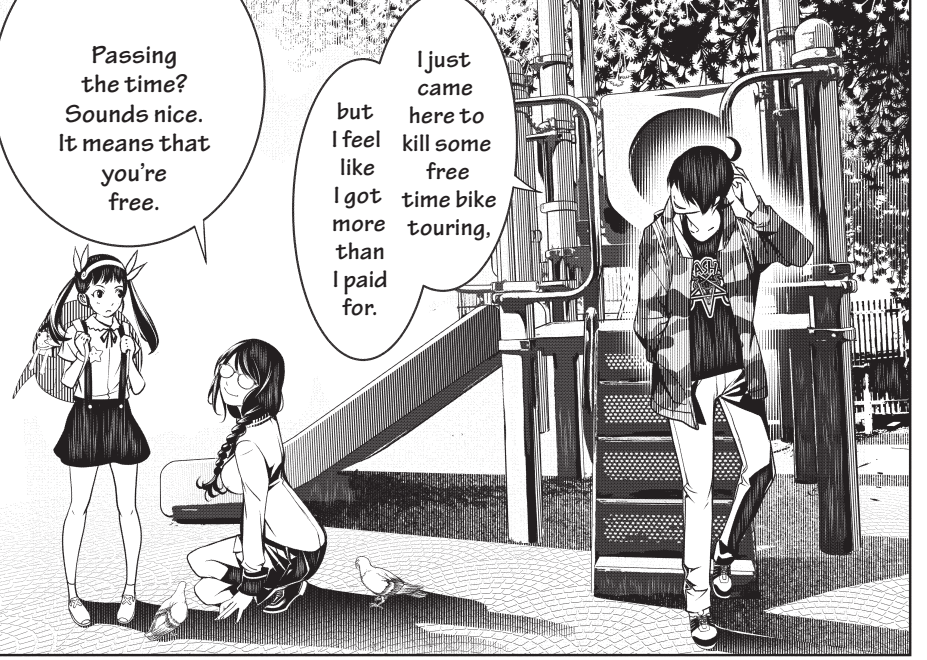

Great job!
Good girl!
PAT
PAT

AND YOU, TOO, ARARAGI! YOU'VE BEEN A BAD BOY!
I'm sorry!
O-Okay!
NOT THAT!
THOUGH VIOLENCE IS OF COURSE BAD!!
Agh!
Her cleav-age!
I... I get it... Vio-lence... is bad...
You have to give them a sensible reason.
If you hit a child, you must explain why you did it.
What I'm trying to say is talk... because they'll understand.

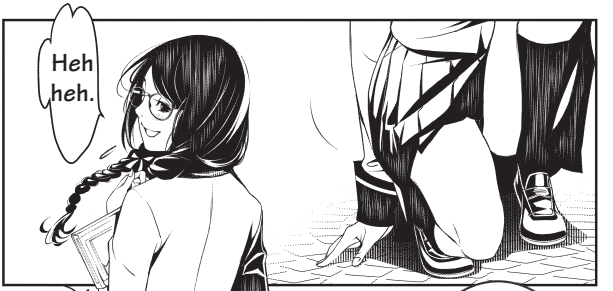
She's an antidote—she always takes my innermost malice away.
I learn a lot talking to you.
You know.
Heh.



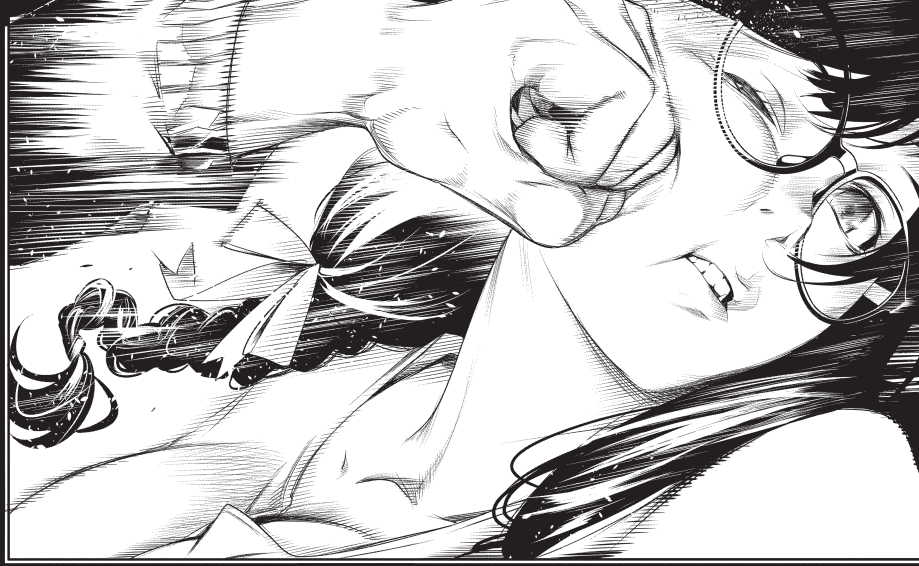

That thought alone makes me feel safe.
Good people exist in this world.


I just came here to kill some free time bike touring,
but I feel like I got more than I paid for.
Passing the time? Sounds nice. It means that you're free.

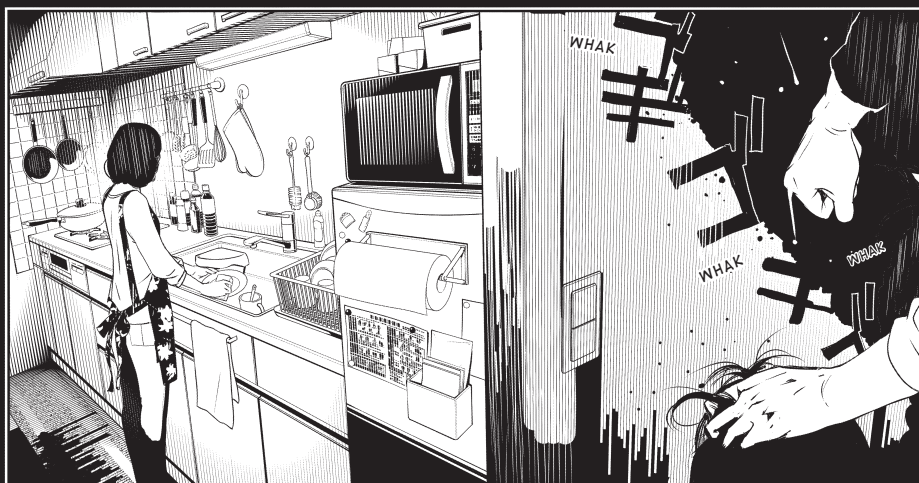
Un-matched in morals, at the top of her class,
and big breasts on top of that.
While Hane-kawa is a perfect, blameless super-human—

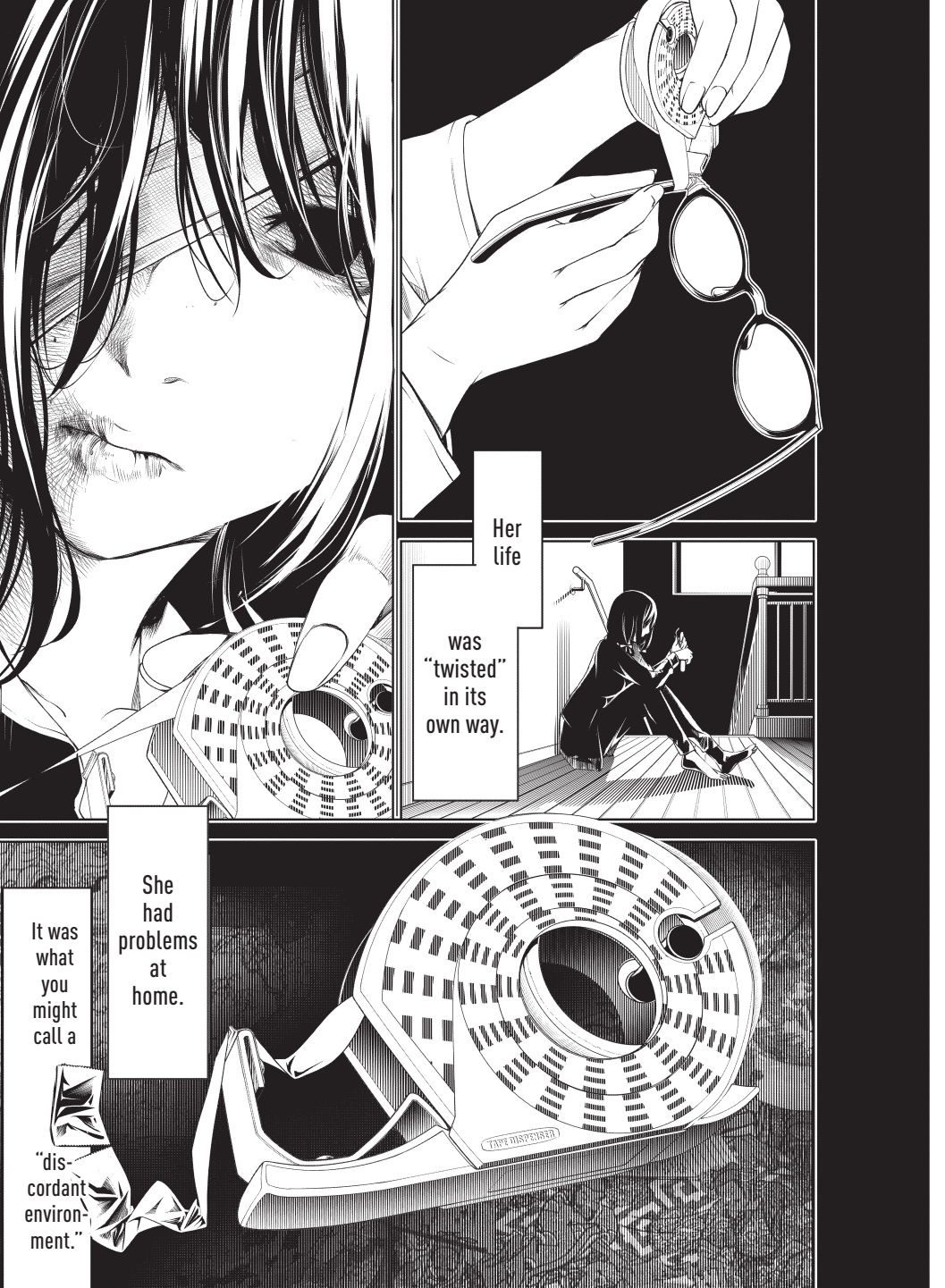

Heh heh.

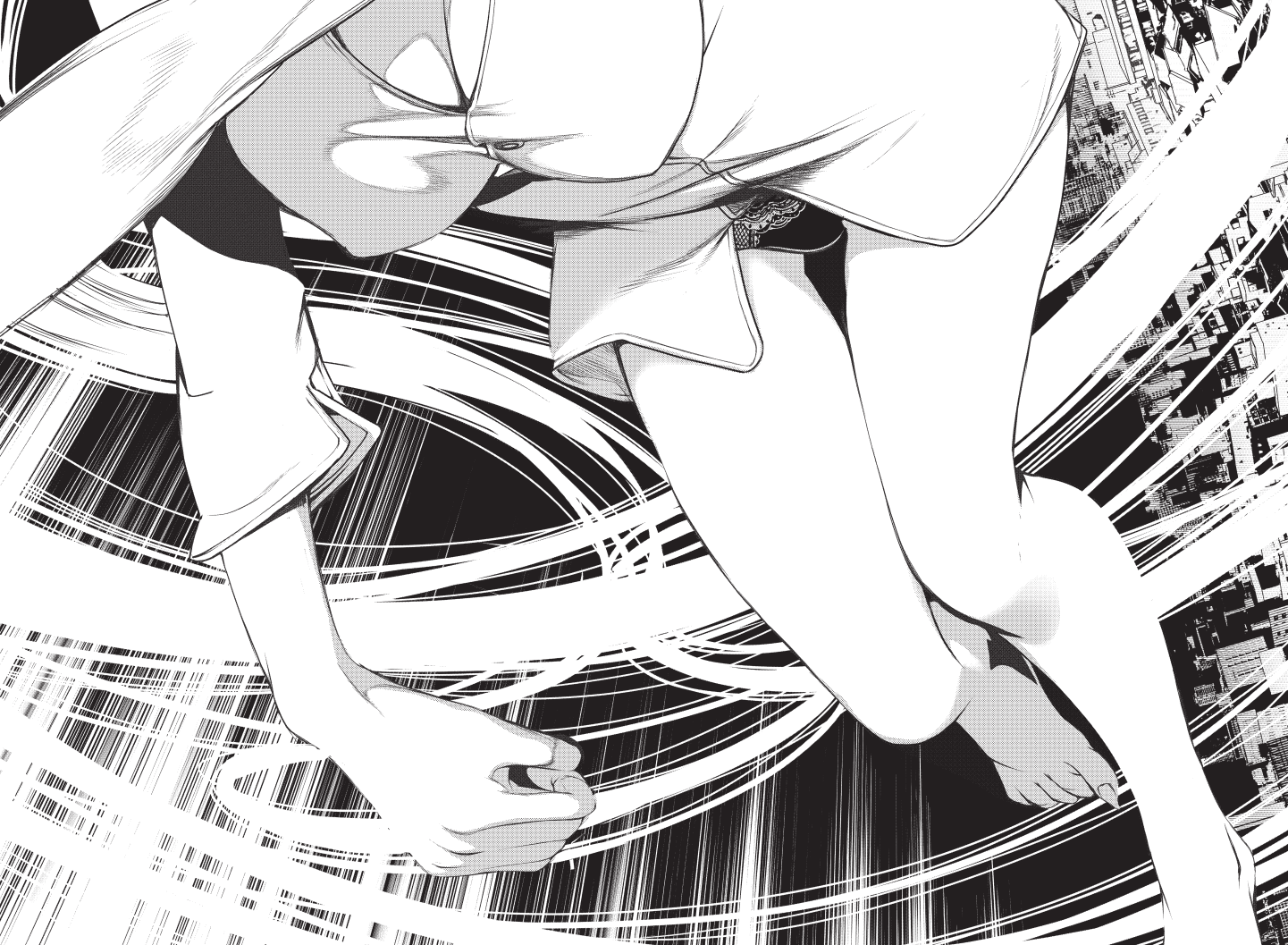
it's hard for me to stay at home.
You know ...
I guess you could say... I'm doing the same.
...I guess that's one way to put it.

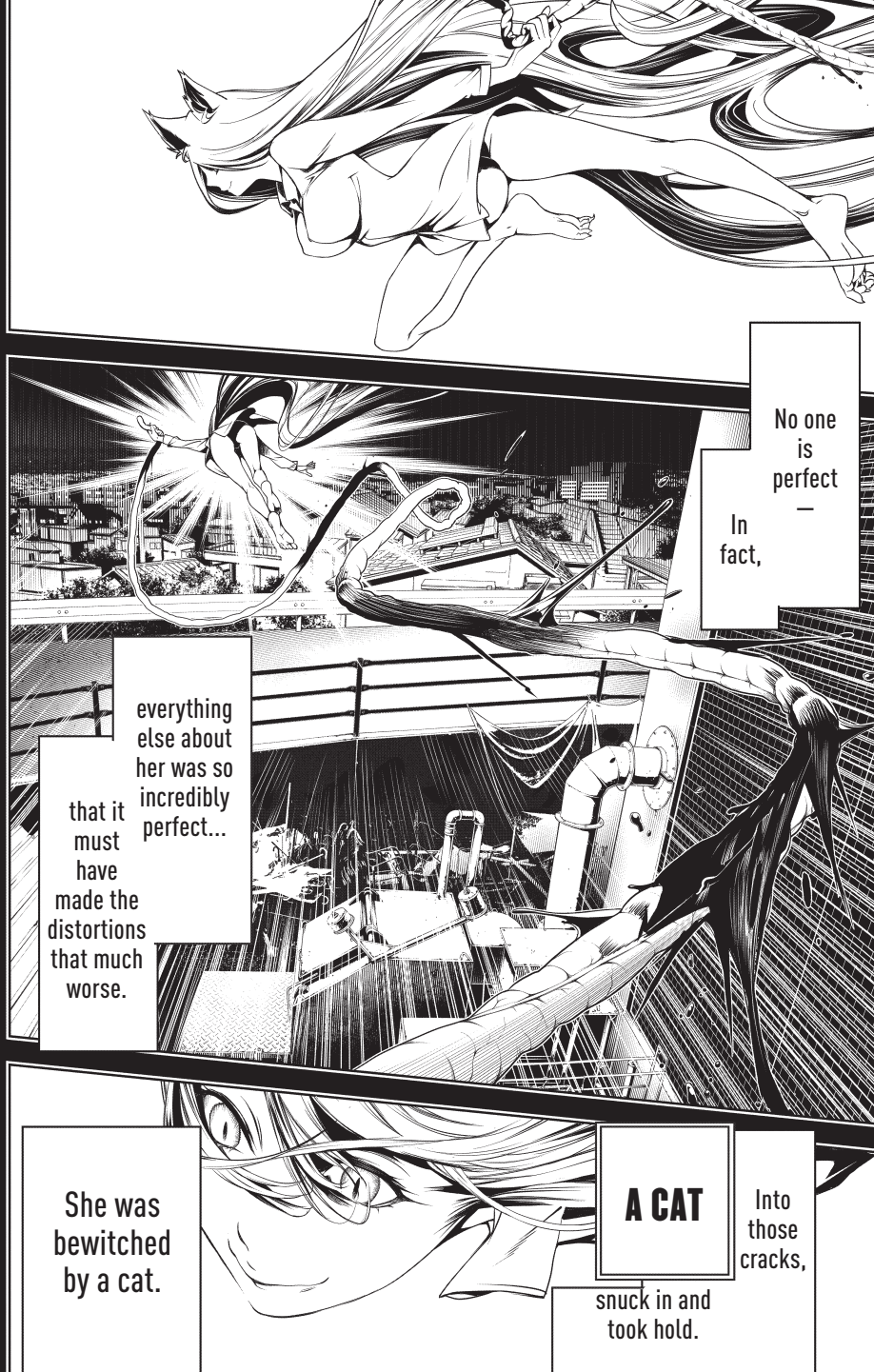


THONK


WHAK
WHAK
WHAK


Her life was "twisted" in its own way.
She had problems at home.
It was what you might call a "discordant environment."



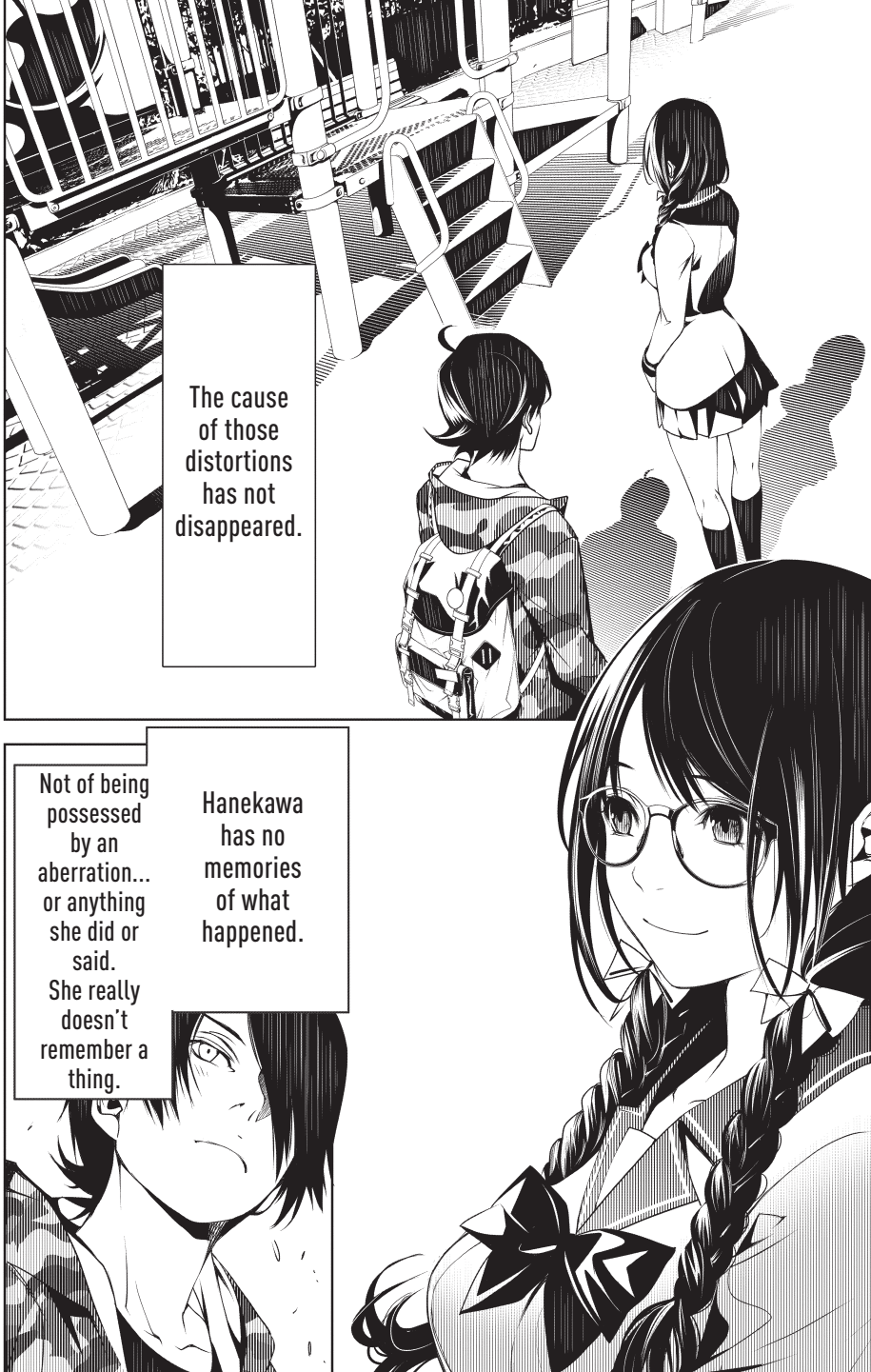

No one is perfect —
In fact,
everything else about her was so incredibly perfect...
that it must have made the distortions that much worse.
She was bewitched by a cat.
A CAT
Into those cracks,
snuck in and took hold.

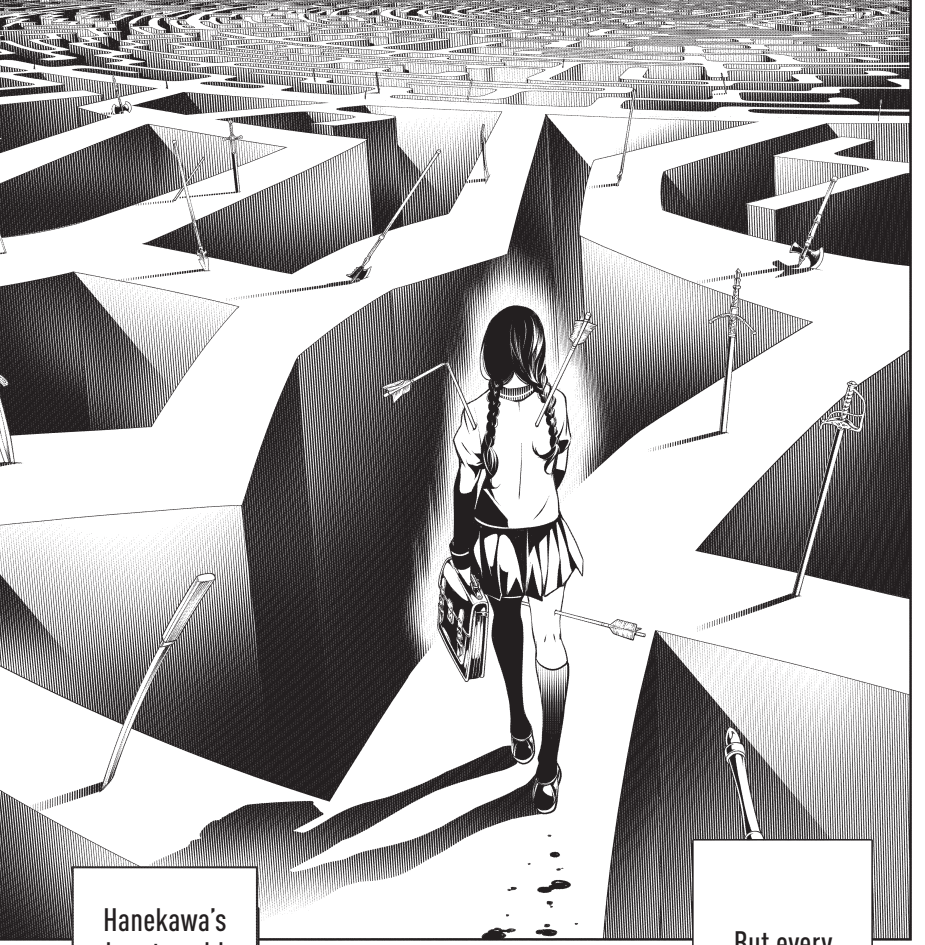
I thought Oshino and I might die trying—

In fact, I probably would've died without this enhanced body.

We did somehow settle her aberration problem, but still...

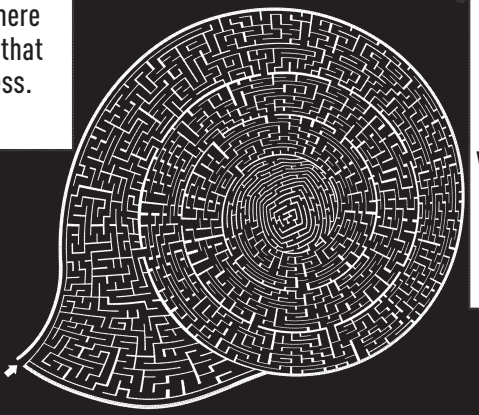
*Cf. *Nekomonogatari*


The cause of those distortions has not disappeared.
Hanekawa has no memories of what happened.
Not of being possessed by an aberration... or anything she did or said.
She really doesn't remember a thing.



Hanekawa's heart could still be somewhere deep in that darkness.

Maybe she's still wandering that labyrinth



But every time she smiles like that—

I wonder.

just like me.
That's the starkest difference between Senjogahara and Hanekawa.
...
Don't worry about it.
And that's why
the reason why...
THUNK
I'm right here.
I'd step into any darkness if I was doing it for her.

Continued in Volume 3

BAKEMONOGATARI in Detail

The Path of the Manga Until Now

Senior Year | Junior Year | Before HS | 5th grade

April 29 (Golden Week)

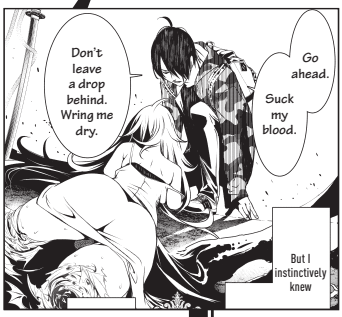
Hanekawa is bewitched by a cat, ultimately coming to owe a debt of gratitude to Mèmè.

March 25 (Spring break):

Koyomi encounters a dying vampire. Enchanted by her, he becomes a vampire, and is then saved by Mèmè.

Hitagi encounters a crab that steals her weight.

Hitagi contracts a serious illness. She survives, but her mother is sucked into a corrupt religion.



NEKOMONOGATARI: Cat Tale (Black)

288 pages
$15.95

KIZUMONOGATARI: Wound Tale

354 pages
$14.95

Chapter 0: Koyomi Vamp

It all begins here! It's the prequel to Bakemonogatari: Monster Tale! It all starts on the night of the end-of-year ceremony, when Koyomi Araragi meets the beautiful vampire Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade...

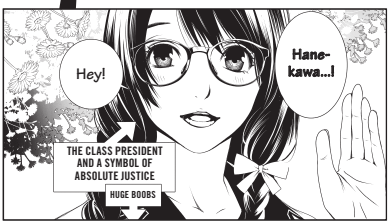
Suruga Monkey

Nadeko Snake

Tsubasa Cat

Koyomi meets Mayoi, decides to guide her.

Koyomi runs into Hanekawa.



A week after the case of the crab is settled (Mother's Day)

(Morning) Koyomi gets in an argument with his sisters, leaves home. Koyomi meets Hitagi, who's in casual clothes.

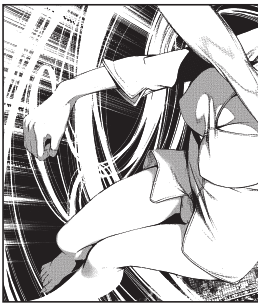
A later date

Hitagi regains her weight.

May 8

(Morning) Koyomi catches Hitagi.

(Night) Koyomi visits Mèmè with Hitagi.



BAKEMONOGATARI: Monster Tale (1)

Chapter 1: Hitagi Crab / Chapter 2: Mayoi Snail

240 pages
$13.95

Hitagi Senjogahara, a girl who falls out of the sky toward Koyomi Araragi, has just about nothing when it comes to something called "weight"...

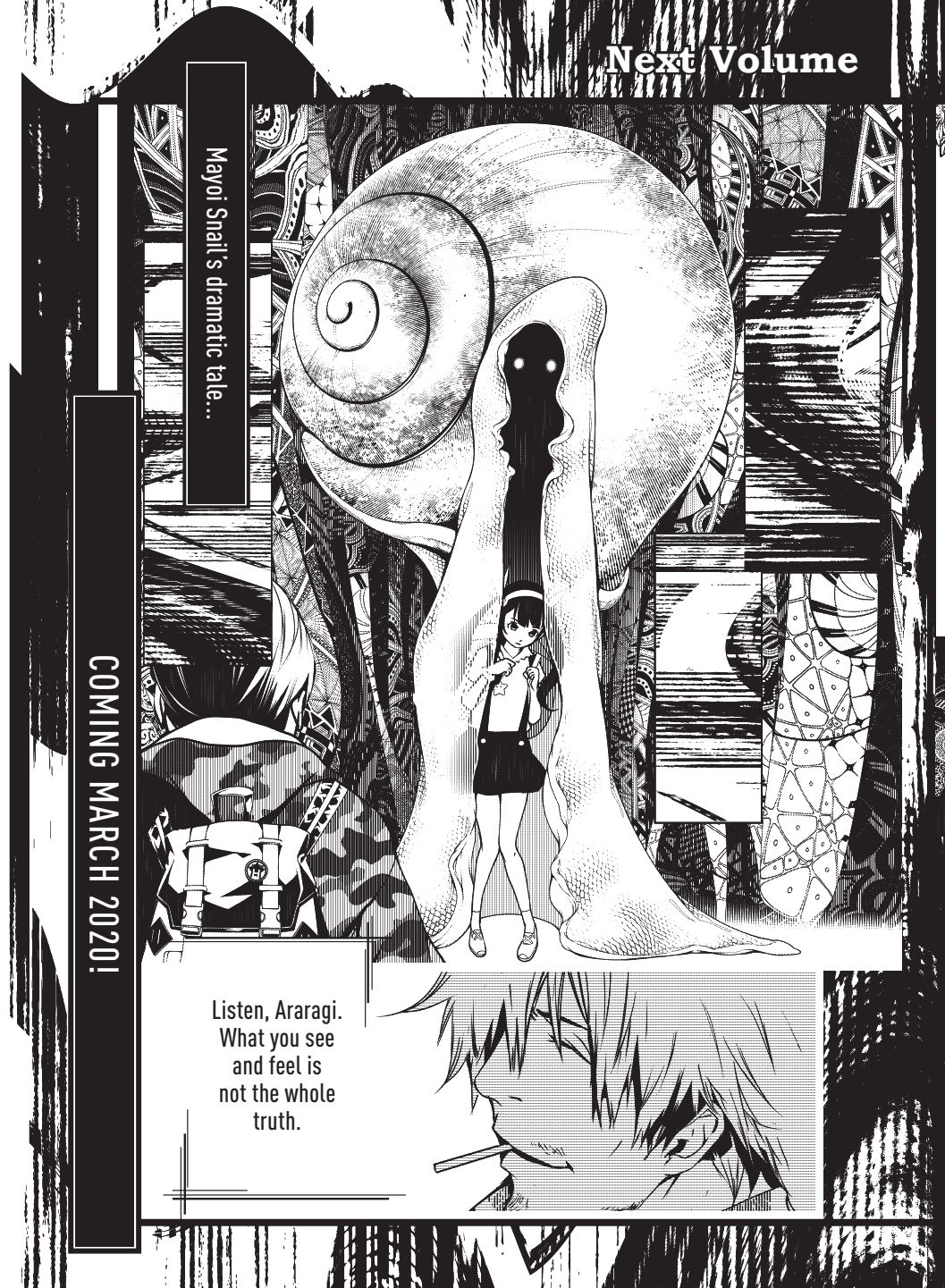
Forbidden Chapter: Tsubasa Family

The truth about Golden Week is told at last. What kind of aberration bewitched Tsubasa Hanekawa, the flawless class president? Before she knows it, she finds it's her first love that she's fallen for.

BAKEMONOGATARI 3

Preview

Next Volume


Mayoi Snail's dramatic tale...
COMING MARCH 2020!
Listen, Araragi. What you see and feel is not the whole truth.

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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Editor: Kristi Fernandez